

PRESS RELEASE

2012/13 ABORTION STATISTICS: PARLIAMENTARIANS QUESTION DATA, CALL FOR THE ABORTION ACT TO BE ENFORCED, AND AN END TO DISCRIMINATORY ABORTION FOR DISABILITY, GENDER.

Julian Brazier MP said:

“Unfortunately, we don’t know that we can we trust these statistics. They are created from the forms which doctors have to fill in after performing an abortion. But, as the Department recently admitted, doctors have been routinely breaking the law by failing to record accurately the reason for their abortions, especially for disabilities like Down’s syndrome. Can the Department of Health give us an assurance this year that doctors have correctly completed the forms upon which their figures rely?”

Jim Dobbin MP said:

“The UK is a rogue state when it comes to abortion. Our law does not require counselling or a cooling-off period like other countries. Our abortion time limit is double that of nearly every other member of the EU. They are all around 12 weeks but we still allow abortion six months in to a pregnancy. Why, in a country which apparently abhors abortion being used as a method of contraception, do the figures for repeat abortions keep rising – this year a huge proportion - 45.3% - of terminations for women over the age of 25 were repeat abortions. Our abortion law is extreme, outdated and unenforceable.”

Fiona Bruce MP said:

“Abortion for foetal abnormality is something society would rather not face. But every single day at least 8 babies have their lives prematurely ended because they happen to be disabled. 2,732 babies were not allowed to live in 2012/13 purely because they were disabled. This kind of practice does not belong in the 21st century. Disabled people are equal and we should not have special laws to prevent them from being born.”

Lord Alton of Liverpool said:

“We are on the cusp of debating Lord Falconer’s assisted suicide Bill whose frail safeguards are similar to those of the Abortion Act. It ought to give us pause that more than 8 million abortions later, it is impossible to prosecute a doctor who agrees to an abortion without having seen the patient.”

Rob Ffello MP said:

“If you ask the question ‘is gender-based abortion illegal’ surprisingly you get three different answers depending on whether you ask the Department of Health, British Medical Association or the British Pregnancy Advisory Service. If the question of whether or not a baby can be aborted for being a girl is open to interpretation under our law, then the law needs to be tightened up to confirm it is utterly unacceptable.”

David Burrowes MP said:

“Since the Abortion Act passed there have been more than 8 million abortions in Britain. The reluctance of the authorities to prosecute doctors who approve abortion forms without knowing anything about the patient shows us that the time has come to accept that the Act is a busted flush and needs replacing.”

ENDS.

Notes:

1. The 2012/13 Department of Health abortion statistics are available [here](#).
2. See the DH's recent publication [*Matching Department of Health abortion notifications and data from the National Down's Syndrome Cytogenetic Register and Recommendations for Improving Notification Compliance*](#) for a detailed explanation of the flaws in clinic administration leading to inaccuracies in the ONS statistics: Also see the [Sunday Times](#) and [Daily Mail](#) reports.
3. The varied views of the British Medical Association, British Pregnancy Advisory Service and Department of Health are [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.
4. Abortion law in the rest of the EU is summarised in this 2007 BBC article [here](#), which is now slightly out of date, but indicative for the purposes of Jim Dobbin's quotation.
5. Reports of the reluctance of the General Medical Council, to refer doctors who had presigned abortion certificates are [here](#) and [here](#).