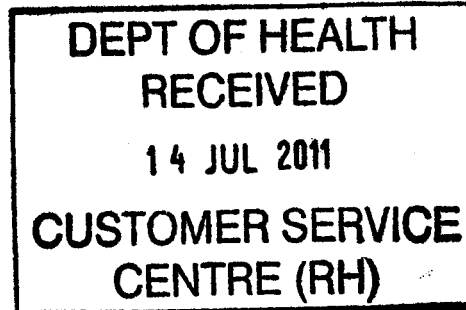




HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Anne Milton MP  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS



11<sup>th</sup> July 2011

*Dear Anne*

Thank you for seeing us last week. Here is the note which we promised you. We accept that to move our amendments would make the Health Bill appear very strange as the convention is for a Bill to express the main purposes of the Government and for subsequent regulations to give detailed effect to the Government's overall objectives. But we are anxious that the proposals we make should be debated and voted on on the floor of the House of Commons, and the approach we discussed at our meeting with you does suggest a way forward.

On the relevant clause in the Bill we would hope that you would open the debate and, while outlining the purpose of the clause, give details of the Government's objective to ensure that the advice side of the abortion services, which is currently paid by taxpayers to the companies and charities undertaking the abortions, should in future be independent of the providers. The debate that follows would allow those of us supporting this line to put on record that our aim is not in any way unduly to slow down the period between a woman deciding to have an abortion and that abortion taking place. Our aim is to ensure that the woman is given an independent space to come to that decision.

The debate, which will probably take place on whether the clause should remain part of the Bill, will give opponents the opportunity to voice all their concerns and opposition and then by vote on the stand part motion, allow the views of the House to be registered clearly.

By you opening the debate we would have a clear statement on the record of what the Government's objective is, the details of which will be achieved by delegated legislation. We would prefer you to give a commitment in the debate that this delegated legislation will be submitted to a positive resolution of the



House of Commons. This again will provide maximum opportunity for people to voice their views.

Thank you again for your time and the time of your officials yesterday. We look forward to talking further with you or your staff if you thought this would be helpful.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'W' followed by a smaller, less legible signature.