

40 years on : A new model for UK Law reform

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Aims of Voice for Choice

- Abortion be available solely at the request of the pregnant woman within existing legal time limits
- Abortion services are subject to the same statutory regulations as other medical services
- Suitably trained nurse practitioners be allowed to provide early medical and surgical abortions, in both the NHS and non-NHS sector
- The law in Northern Ireland be brought into line with the rest of the UK
- Current legal abortion rights are defended

Abortion be available solely at the request of the pregnant woman within existing legal time limits

- At present the woman has to get the authorisation of two doctors
- The second doctor does not legally have to see the woman
- Sometimes this causes delay
- Over 80% of the public in polls agree that the woman should make the decision in consultation with her doctor and have done for at least 20 years

Abortion services are subject to the same statutory regulations as other medical services

- There are restrictions on where the operation should be carried out but 1990 HFEA modified

The power under subsection (3) of this section to approve a place includes power, in relation to treatment consisting primarily in the use of such medicines as may be specified in the approval and carried out in such manner as may be so specified, to approve a class of places.

The Department of Health have not encouraged anyone to explore this possibility.

- Abortions have to be notified to the CMO using a special form

HFEA review

- An opportunity to achieve the removal of the need for two doctors signatures
- An opportunity to extend the act to allow nurses to perform abortions
- A danger that the anti-abortion lobby will attempt to reduce the time limits which the pro-choice movement will resist strongly and comprehensively