



HOUSE OF LORDS

Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Tel: 020-7219 8821
hlseclegscrutiny@parliament.uk
www.parliament.uk/lords

13 May 2020

Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP
House of Commons

Dear Sir Jeffrey

Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020

May I thank you, on behalf of the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee, for your email of 6 May 2020 about the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020 which was considered by the Committee at its meeting this week.

You raise a number of points. The first concerns the summary in the Committee's report of the submission by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland. As you may know, we have published on our webpage a further submission, dated 29 April 2020, from the Attorney General. It states: "While I do have some concerns about how my submission has been summarised in the report, those interested in the subject will be able to read that submission for themselves and I have no wish to appear to offer editorial suggestions". Given this, the Committee took the view that no correction was necessary.

In relation to your second point, the Committee has acknowledged that the Report contained a misquotation in relation to the reference to Lady Hale, this has now been corrected, and all those who wrote in have been notified.

Finally, in relation to your comments about the inspection regime, the NIO's response was not published in full because matters relating to legal drafting are outside the Committee's remit.

In accordance with our usual practice, we will publish your email on our webpage.

With very good note

Hodgson of Astley Abbots

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots CBE

Chair of the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee