



Department
of Health &
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The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
By email to: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 March to Matt Hancock on behalf of a number of your constituents about abortion. I apologise for the delay in replying.

We have put in place two temporary measures in England to limit the transmission of COVID-19 and ensure continued access to abortion services. Following a telephone or e-consultation with a clinician, women and girls will be able to take both pills for early medical abortion (up to ten weeks' gestation) in their own homes, without the need to first attend a hospital or clinic.

The other measure is to allow registered medical practitioners to prescribe both pills for the treatment of early medical abortion up to ten weeks from their own homes.

In 2018 in England and Wales, four out of every five abortions were carried out at under ten weeks of gestation. Our measures will therefore ensure continuity of access to abortion for the vast majority of women and girls.

Further information can be found at www.gov.uk by searching for 'temporary approval of home use for both stages of early medical abortion'.

I hope this reply is helpful.

HELEN WHATELY