

MINISTER OF STATE
23 OCT 1996
NORTHERN IRELAND

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The Leading Public Service Union

Jim McCusker General Secretary

YOUR REF

OUR REF A/JMcC/KW

DNSS

Rt Hon Sir John Wheeler DL MP
Minister of State for NI
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST BT4

22 October 1996

PS/Mr Moss (DNSS)

I'm sorry about this. I found it in the
netter reaches of my tray. Is it for
you?
JS 21/11/96

Dear Sir John

I have been directed by our General Council to bring to your attention the following resolution of our 1996 delegate conference on abortion legislation for Northern Ireland:-

"Conference recognises that our union's apparent "neutrality" on the question of legislation regulating the termination of pregnancy is indefensible on both logical and ethical grounds.

It also recognises that the present legal uncertainty ill-serves both the medical profession and women of Northern Ireland.

Accordingly it instructs the General Council to campaign for the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act which provides a proper and coherent legal framework and which is subject to the scrutiny of Parliament."

Yours sincerely

Jim McCusker
J McCUSKER
General Secretary

1015 DHSS
PRIVATE OFFICE
25 NOV 1996
No

22101

NORTHERN · IRELAND · PUBLIC · SERVICE · ALLIANCE

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COR/01054/96

From: BILL SMITH
Health and Social Policy Unit

cc: PS/Sir John Wheeler
Dr Harbison

Mr Lindsay

Murriel

Date: 26 November 1996

27 NOV 1996

PS/Mr Moss

NIPSA: RESOLUTION ON ABORTION

1. Mr McCusker, General Secretary of the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA), wrote to Sir John Wheeler on 22 October to draw attention to a resolution passed by NIPSA's delegate conference in June.
2. The resolution calls for the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland and is quoted in full in Mr McCusker's letter.
3. In line with this Department's policy responsibility, a draft reply is attached for your signature.

B

BILL SMITH

PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mr J McCusker
General Secretary
Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance
Harkin House
54 Wellington Park
BELFAST
BT9 6DP

Our ref: COR/01054/96

November 1996

Dear Mr McCusker

Thank you for your letter of 22 October to Sir John Wheeler drawing attention to the resolution passed at NIPSA's 1996 delegate conference on abortion legislation.

As the Minister responsible for policy on abortion in Northern Ireland, Mr Moss has asked me to acknowledge your letter.

While there is a body of opinion which would support a change in the law, local political representatives and the majority of comments received by Ministers on this subject have consistently opposed any extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland. The Government has accordingly no intention of proposing any changes to the law on abortion here.

PRIVATE SECRETARY