

Minister for Public Health and Women's Health
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Stuart McMillan MSP
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14 November 2025

Dear Stuart McMillan,

I am writing to update you on the publication today of the independent Expert Group on Abortion Law Reform's report.

As the Committee will be aware, the Scottish Government committed in its Programme for Government 2023/24 to review the law on abortion and ensure that abortion services are first and foremost a healthcare matter.

In August 2024 I established an Expert Group chaired by Professor Anna Glasier, the Scottish Government's Women's Health Champion, to provide an independent assessment of the current legal framework for abortion and, if appropriate, make recommendations for reform. The Expert Group comprised legal, clinical and academic experts, and also welcomed a significant number of contributions from reproductive rights organisations, Pro-Life groups, faith groups, clinical bodies and others. I am pleased to update you that the Expert Group has now completed their work and their report is available [here](#).

The report examines the current law, international examples, stakeholder contributions and other evidence before setting out 36 recommendations for our consideration. Recommendations are across three themes: Gestational Limits and Grounds, Pathways for Patients and Providers, and Offences. The minutes for the Expert Group meetings, along with their terms of reference, can be found [here](#).

The report will provide us with strong foundations as we enter the next phase of review; however, I must be clear that it represents the view of the Expert Group, and it will form only

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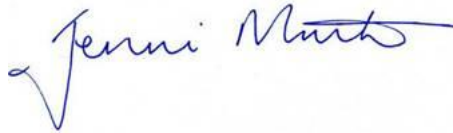


one part of the overall review. The Scottish Government must now take the time to carry out our own programme of stakeholder engagement with the many individuals and organisations interested in abortion. It is imperative that the widest possible range of views inform any potential proposals and that, if any are brought forward, they are robust and evidence-based.

Should the Scottish Government make legislative proposals following the period of focused engagement, these would of course be subject to a full public consultation.

I will continue to keep you updated on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Jenni Minto MSP

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