

Crime and Policing Bill

AMENDMENTS

TO BE MOVED

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Supplementary to the Thirteenth Marshalled List]

Clause 191

BARONESS LAWLOR

Clause 191, page 223, line 13, at end insert “, provided that the gestational age of the baby is no more than 24 weeks.”

Member's explanatory statement

After 24 weeks, the present law allows for abortions only under certain strict conditions. This amendment aims to ensure that women follow these conditions.

VISCOUNT HAILSHAM

This amendment is intended to replace Amendment 456A

Clause 191, page 223, line 13, at end insert “provided that the Defence has proved, on the balance of probabilities, that at the time of her actions —

- (a) the balance of the woman’s mind was then seriously disturbed by reason of her pregnancy, or
- (b) the woman was the victim of domestic abuse within the meaning of section 1 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and such abuse was a substantial cause of her actions.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would provide a defence to a charge of what would otherwise be an unlawful late term abortion, namely that at the time of her action, the woman’s balance of mind was seriously disturbed by her pregnancy, or she was the victim of domestic abuse and such abuse was a substantial cause of her action.

After Clause 191

BARONESS LAWLOR

After Clause 191, insert the following new Clause —

“Abortion: requirement for in-person consultation and scan

In section 1(3D) of the Abortion Act 1967 (medical termination of pregnancy) —

- (a) omit “by telephone or by electronic means”;
- (b) after “pregnancy” insert “, for which a scan must be made to determine the gestational age of the baby”.

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause not only, as in Amendment 460, requires an in-person consultation before medication to terminate the pregnancy may be lawfully prescribed, but also requires that a scan is conducted to ensure that the abortion is within the time limits required by law.

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