

Dear Ms Moore,

I would like to let you know of my concerns about midwives not being able to practice privately if amendments are not made to the legislation currently before Parliament.

I am a mother of two children, both born by caesarean section. I have great respect for our medical system in that both my sons were able to be delivered safely after I was unable to birth them naturally.

We had hoped our second child would be born at home, and we had a beautiful journey with our homebirth midwife who visited us at home, walked through the garden I was planning, shared cups of tea and homemade biscuits and when the time for the birth came she was there as soon as labour started and she allowed me to labour safely and manageably for some time before gently letting me know that our baby was not going to be born naturally. After a civilised transition to hospital she worked, calmly and with great respect, with the hospital professionals who attended my surgery, all the while ensuring my wishes were fulfilled to the best they could be.

More importantly, she encouraged me to go through the hospital system so that my records would be on hand if I was not able to birth at home.

I worry that if midwives are not able to practice privately then people will attempt to birth at home under a cloak of secrecy and in unsafe ways that may endanger the lives of mother and child.

Ideally low risk women should be able to birth at home if they choose to, and we need to keep the lines of communication open between the home and hospital. We need these experienced midwives to help us birth safely at home, so that they can let us know when we do need medical intervention.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Fisher