

Dear Sir,

Many readers may not be aware that since last March, abortion clinics have been allowed to send women the pills needed for a medical abortion in the post, following a phone consultation.

Thus, for nearly a year, thousands of women have been carrying out their own abortions at home, without ever being seen by a medical professional.

I am very concerned about home abortions and a new opinion poll shows that I am not alone. Savanta ComRes carried out a poll of 1,046 adults in England during December 2020 on behalf of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

The findings are stark. Seven in ten adults in England (71%) say they are concerned about women having a medical abortion at home after a phone or video consultation with a doctor. Highlighting the traumatic nature of a medical abortion, 84% of respondents say they are concerned about women finding it distressing potentially having to dispose of the terminated pregnancy either into the toilet or sanitary pads.

The public also shares concerns about domestic abuse. 84% say they are concerned about women being at risk of being coerced into an abortion by a partner or family member with a telemedicine abortion appointment where the doctor has not seen the woman in person.

Perhaps even more stark are the findings from a Savanta Comres poll of GPs in the UK. A majority (57%) of GPs are concerned about women having an abortion after only a phone or video consultation. 74% of GPs are concerned about women finding it distressing having to dispose of their pregnancy. And 86% of GPs are concerned about women being coerced into an abortion.

Anyone who shares these concerns should make them known to their MP. At-home abortion was introduced as a temporary measure in March 2020. Now the Government is considering making this permanent. Such a significant change, with potentially devastating mental health consequences for women, should not be slipped through unopposed. At-home, or DIY abortion, must end immediately.

Yours sincerely,