

Secretary,  
Abortion Supervisory Committee.

Dear Ms Cole

**Dr Helen Paterson Certifying Consultant**

Thank you for your letter of 21 September 2017 and attachments. The Committee in its letter of 1 September 2017 to Dr Helen Paterson has advised her that she may continue in her appointment as a certifying consultant if she complies with her assurance that she will not allow her personal views to colour her personal clinical judgment. I am disappointed that the Committee has seen fit to allow Dr Helen Paterson to continue in her appointment as a certifying consultant in spite of her being in breach of section 30 [5] [b].

The personal view of Dr Helen Paterson that, "the question of whether an abortion should be performed is a matter for the woman and her doctor to decide," is incompatible with the Act. The Act does not allow the Committee to exercise any discretion in the interpretation of section 30 [5] [b]. It is therefore the opinion of this Society that the Committee is acting unlawfully in continuing the appointment of Dr Helen Paterson as a certifying consultant.

The Committee is empowered by section 28 to state a case for the opinion of the High Court on any question of law arising in any matter before the Supervisory Committee, I therefore request that the Committee consider taking this issue to the High Court for an adjudication.

In the event that the Committee declines to seek the opinion of the High Court in this matter, this Society will take legal advice on the advisability of presenting a case in this matter to the High Court for a judicial review.

Yours sincerely

Ken Orr  
Secretary,  
Right to Life.