

# Abortion Law Reform: Frequently Asked Questions

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## 1. WHAT IS THE LAW COMMISSION DOING?

The Law Commission is developing advice for the Minister of Justice, Hon Andrew Little, on how New Zealand's abortion laws could be made consistent with treating abortion as a health issue.

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## 2. WHO IS THE LAW COMMISSION?

The Law Commission is an independent crown entity. Its function is to keep New Zealand's law under review, and to make recommendations for the reform and development of the law.

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## 3. WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE LAW COMMISSION'S REVIEW?

The Government is considering making New Zealand's laws consistent with treating abortion as a health issue. The Minister of Justice has asked for the Law Commission's advice on what alternative approaches could be taken in the law to align with a health approach. The Minister has asked the Law Commission to consider the criminal aspects of abortion law, the statutory grounds for abortion and the process for receiving services.

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## 4. WHY IS THE LAW COMMISSION UNDERTAKING THIS REVIEW?

The Minister of Justice has asked the Law Commission for advice. Part of the Commission's role is to examine any aspect of New Zealand law that the Minister directs.

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## 5. WHEN DID THE REVIEW BEGIN?

The review began on 27 February 2018, when the Minister of Justice wrote to the Law Commission requesting its advice.



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## 6. WHEN WILL THE LAW COMMISSION COMPLETE ITS ADVICE?

The Minister has asked the Law Commission to report back to him within eight months, which is in late October 2018.

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## 7. WHO IS THE LAW COMMISSION TALKING TO?

The Minister has asked the Law Commission to seek input from appropriate health professionals and to provide an opportunity to receive the public's views.

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## 8. CAN I SHARE MY VIEWS?

Any person or group can provide their views to the Law Commission.

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## 9. WHEN CAN I SHARE MY VIEWS?

People can provide their views to the Law Commission until 18 May 2018.

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## 10. HOW CAN I SHARE MY VIEWS?

People can provide their views by:

- 1 submitting through the website: [abortionlaw.lawcom.govt.nz](http://abortionlaw.lawcom.govt.nz)
- 2 emailing the Law Commission at [alr@lawcom.govt.nz](mailto:alr@lawcom.govt.nz)
- 3 writing to the Law Commission at:

**Abortion Law Reform**

Law Commission  
PO Box 2590  
Wellington 6140  
DX SP 23534

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## 11. CAN I SHARE MY VIEWS CONFIDENTIALLY?

You can tell the Commission your views without providing your name or contact details. Any information you do choose to provide will be subject to the Official Information Act 1982. More information about what that means can be found on our website: [abortionlaw.lawcom.govt.nz](http://abortionlaw.lawcom.govt.nz).

