

To whom it may concern,

The current situation by which independent midwives are being processed if there has been a complaint against them is totally unacceptable, unfair, unjust and unethical. No conditions should be placed on any midwife before an investigation has taken place.

As a woman of childbearing age, I have grave concerns that at any time my midwife could find her registration under restriction and this would exclude her from continuing to be my main care provider. This would effectively limit my choices in maternity care and may cause me to take a course of action that I do not feel comfortable with or that I feel puts myself or my baby at risk.

As a student midwife, I am alarmed that my choices and rights as a professional may be greatly limited. Midwives are professionals in their own right and must have the same choices and rights as other professionals such as doctors.

I request that an urgent review of this process takes place immediately and that some balance be resorted. Midwifery and homebirth are not a crime. There will always be women requiring the services of independent midwives, just as there will always be women choosing to birth at home. It is the government's responsibility to make sure that those choices are always available.

Jaia Baer