

To Whom It May Concern,

The current process to which independent midwives are subjected in the case of complaint being made against them is totally unacceptable, unfair, unjust and unethical. Interim conditions, as they stand, are far too harsh and should only be placed on a midwife following the most serious of complaints. Any other form of punishment should not be inflicted upon a midwife before an investigation has taken place and the midwife found guilty.

As an association which supports homebirth midwives and homebirthing families we hold very serious concerns about the continuation and continuity of care of mothers and babies. Some mothers may choose to freebirth, others may be forced into a hospital birth which they do not want. These options, in our opinion, are not as safe as birthing at home with a trained midwife who the mother has chosen to employ.

We are also very concerned about the livelihood of homebirth midwives who through a simple, possibly unfounded, complaint can find themselves effectively suspended from their chosen profession for a length of time. In some cases it may be enough to spell the end of a career- if allowed to happen this is persecution.

I request that an urgent review of this clearly unfair process takes place immediately and that some balance be resorted. Midwifery and homebirth is not a crime, do not take away women's basic birthing rights.

Home Midwifery Association