

## HUMAN FERTILISATION & EMBRYOLOGY BILL

Many of the issues in this bill are controversial and many people have strong feelings about them. I have a long record as your local MP in voting to restrict the availability of abortion, and voted according to my conscience, as I always do on such sensitive topics.

During the Debates, I voted against the creation of hybrid animal/human embryos and against the creation of so called “saviour sibling” embryos. I also voted in favour of retaining clear recognition of the role of the father in respect of IVF and other treatments.

You will also be aware that there were a number of propositions for reducing the legal time limit for abortions from its current 24 weeks. I can tell you I voted for **all** these propositions, ranging from 12 weeks to 22 weeks. It seemed to me clear that medical science has developed significantly since the original Abortion Act in 1967, so that many very premature babies are now likely to survive.

However, I am afraid that on every single one of these propositions, our side of the argument was defeated. I think this is very sad, and it suggests a moral vacuum at the heart of our political system.

I am sure you will agree with me that it is morally and ethically repugnant that we have some 200,000 legal abortions each year, of which a third are repeat abortions. I fear this says a great deal about our modern society.

I am grateful for all the support I have received from you and many other of my constituents in taking the stance I have done on this legislation.

