



Nadine Dorries MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street London
SW1H 0EU

9th March 2020

Dear Nadine Dorries MP,

We are writing to you from the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, BPAS, who campaign for women's reproductive choices, and Birthrights, the charity dedicated to improving maternity care through promoting human rights to ask you to publish in full, the recent inquiry carried out by the Department of Health and Social Care, into provision of pain relief during labour.

Whilst both BPAS and Birthrights are glad that to see provision of pain relief in labour being taken seriously by the Government, the official inquiry represents an important opportunity to understand what is driving both the decrease in the use of pain relief reported in NHS maternity statistics between 2008 and 2018, and also the stories both organisations hear from women who have had pain relief withheld. It is therefore critical that the report is made publicly available, so that all organisations working in the sector can learn from it and work to address the underlying causes.

In the light of recent reports of poor care coming to light in maternity units such as Shrewsbury and Telford, and East Kent, we are sure that the Department of Health and Social Care will want to model the culture of openness and transparency that is needed to ensure safe and personalised maternity care.

We look forward to seeing the results of the official inquiry published in full, as soon as possible, and would also welcome a meeting with other organisations to discuss the findings. For any further correspondence regarding a future meeting or any other issue, please contact Maria Booker, Programmes Director at Birthrights: maria@birthrights.org.uk or 07974 804887

Yours sincerely,

BPAS
Birthrights