



News > UK > Home News

# Biggest UK abortion provider to turn away Irish women

Marie Stopes says it has seen a surge in demand so must temporarily prioritise British NHS patients

Caroline Mortimer | @cjmortimer | 3 days ago | 83 comments



Like

Click to follow The Independent Online



Pro-choice campaigners taking part in a demonstration through Belfast city centre in protest at Northern Ireland's restrictive abortion law *AFP/Getty Images*

Britain's largest abortion provider has announced it will have to begin turning Irish women away from its clinics as it struggles to meet demand.

A spokeswoman for the family planning charity, Marie Stopes International, said it would now prioritise the needs of UK-based clients referred to it by the NHS – though Irish women who had already booked appointments would be treated.

ADVERTISING



She said: “We’re looking at our capacity across the country. Irish women may have to go to slightly different locations to access our services.”

Instead, the charity said it would refer Irish clients to another abortion provider, the [British Pregnancy Advisory Service \(BPAS\)](#) – but it warned it was also feeling the strain.

## READ MORE

Court rules Northern Ireland abortion law 'breaches human rights'

When it comes to abortion, Britain is no better than Trump

Surgical abortions have been suspended at Marie Stopes clinics

Abortion is illegal in almost all circumstances in Ireland and [heavily restricted in Northern Ireland](#) so women are forced to travel and pay privately for an abortion in Britain.

[More than 3,400 Irish women travelled to Britain for an abortion in 2015](#) according to UK Government figures, accounting for the largest number of non-UK nationals having an abortion in the country.

The Marie Stopes spokeswoman insisted the restrictions were only temporary.

She [told \*The Times\*](#): “January and February are always the busiest times of year and we are currently managing high demand by referring some women to other providers to ensure they can be seen as soon as possible.

## UK news in pictures





---

“Our priority is ensuring women obtain the earliest possible appointment and we are working with organisations in Ireland to ensure provision is there for women who go via their networks.

“We are managing demand by focusing on NHS clients but our helpline is very clear to everyone that calls that if they have difficulty finding another provider they should call us back.”

Under Irish law abortion is only legal when the mother’s life is in danger.

Following controversy over the death of Savita Halappanavar – who died while 17 weeks pregnant at Galway hospital in 2013 after **doctors refused to terminate her miscarrying pregnancy to save her life** because they feared criminal penalties calls – plans were made for abortion laws to be loosened.

134  
shares

News Voices Culture Lifestyle



A rally in Brussels in support of the #repealthe8th movement (Erica Jane/Twitter)

The eighth amendment to the Irish constitution, which was ratified in 1983, gives explicit recognition of “the right to life of the unborn” equal to that of its mother.

The “**Repeal the 8th**” campaign has called for the amendment to be scrapped to bring Ireland into line with its European neighbours.

In Northern Ireland, where the 1968 Abortion Act does not apply, medically induced abortions are legal **but only up until nine weeks gestation** – before many women know they are pregnant.

But Dr Rebecca Gomperts, the founder of Dutch organisation Women on Waves, which **provides family planning services on a ship just outside the jurisdiction of countries with restrictive abortion laws**, said the problem was that Britain’s own abortion regulations were too restrictive.

134  
shares[READ MORE](#)

## The UK's own abortion ban, explained in 3 minutes

She told *The Independent*: “The real problem here is that abortion access to Great Britain is way too regulated. Even for **an abortion with pills**, women have to go to a special clinic like Marie Stopes and BPAS .

“This is totally unnecessary as scientific research in the past 20 years has shown it is safe for women to have a medical abortion at home.

“So if the UK wants to solve this problem the only thing they have to do is make medical abortion available on prescription through family physicians in regular pharmacies.

“This would immediately take away the strain on the clinics and make the care of women who need an abortion in the UK and for women travelling there from Ireland much better.”

More about: | [abortion](#) | [Marie Stopes International](#) | [BPAS](#) | [abortion services](#) | [Ireland](#) | [repeal the 8th](#) | [abortion ban](#)

[Reuse content](#)

Sponsored Links by Taboola

## 20 Facts About Ivanka That Donald Trump Wishes We'd Forget

LifeDaily.com



## What Boy George Looks Like Now Is Insane!

Wizzed

## You're Doing It Wrong: The New Way To Learn Languages In 2017

Babbel

## This game will keep you up all night!

Vikings: Free Online Game

## Vier Vluchtelingen Winnen €175 Miljoen in Loterij

theLotter.com

## Celebs Whose Private Jets Are Too Bizarre To Believe

ZestVIP

## They Took The Same Picture For 40 Years. Don't Cry when You See The Last One!

Ammazing-Woman.com

## Say Goodbye To Snoring, Say Hello to Sleep

My Snoring Solution

## 15 Foods to NEVER Keep In The Fridge

HealtyLeo.com

## 15 Reasons You Will REGRET Traveling To The Netherlands

4 All Travelers

## 7 Uses For Lemons That Will Change Your Life

NatureTip.com



## COMMENTS


**83 Comments**
[Subscribe](#) [RSS](#)

**Jean**

2 days ago

It was clear that this article was a promotion for legalizing abortion in Ireland as soon as I read the 'Savita' case being used, yet again, as a propaganda piece. FACTS do not seem to be important to journalism but maybe your readers would be open to these, which are:  
<http://savitatruth.com/facts/>

Also, I think it is fair that your readers are aware of the massive failures found by the CQC with regard to both Marie Stopes and Bpas in safeguarding women:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/cqc-publishes-inspection-reports-marie-stopes-international>

[https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/new\\_reports/AAA\\_F8336.pdf](https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/new_reports/AAA_F8336.pdf)

Reply Share

-1 likes


**GdeStaël**

3 days ago

Someone has to help Irish women, even if it is hypocrisy of Pharisean proportions to off-shore the issue. It does not make the need or demand for the procedure of abortion disappear.

In the post-enlightenment Europe IMO full suite of reproductive services should be the norm: contraception, sexual health incl STD detection, maternity and termination.

Reply Share

+1 likes


**llcoolcal**

3 days ago

Irish people should handle this by taking on their elected officials in Ireland- I dont know if Irish women pay in the UK





Reply Share 1 reply

+2 likes



**Reader**

3 days ago

Most Irish women go to providers like Marie Stopes who charge.

Reply Share

0 likes



**Reader**

3 days ago

I agree with this as if Irish governments did not have the 'safety valve' of England, they would have been forced to introduce abortion years ago.

Reply Share

+1 likes



**Norbertthenark**

3 days ago

Hmm.. a new low in euphemisms perhaps, equating UK health resources with the wanton murder of unborn babies....

Reply Share

-1 likes



**Athanasius**

3 days ago

Abortion factories have busy seasons? Well, call me Mr Crass-And-Insensitive, but allow me to suggest that women stay off the sherry at Christmas.

Reply Share 1 reply

+1 likes



**Reader**

3 days ago

Or maybe men should don the condom eh?

Reply Share

+1 likes



**Let's support life**

3 days ago

Speaking about human life as if it's just a piece of trash you throw out with the bins. Pathetic.

There are 200,000 abortions in the UK each year which compares with the 3,4000 Irish ladies seeking abortion. I can guarantee you Irish society is much happier with strict anti-abortion laws and the rate of rape in Ireland is 1/2 that in the UK. 98% of those 200,000 abortions are healthy unborn babies and 81% of the women are single. The problem is with the relationships encouraged by a permissive society. And let's not forget, if the gender ratio is about 50:50, women are killing women here.

Reply Share 2 replies

0 likes

134  
shares

News Voices Culture Lifestyle

2. Permissive society simply means "a free society".  
 3. It's not possible to kill something that isn't alive.  
 Fetuses which are aborted are simply not self sufficient living organisms.

Using extremely misleading rhetoric doesn't help your case.

Also, societies where abortion is illegal are not happier. There is no evidence to suggest that they are.

Reply Share 1 reply

0 likes

**Athanasius**

3 days ago

Magical thinking is the thing I really love about living in the twenty-first century. That someone can open with "fetuses are not babies" and then move on to "using extremely misleading rhetoric doesn't help your case" is one of the marvels of modern education.

Reply Share

+1 likes

**aCommenter**

3 days ago

Can't understand why with the morning after pill being readily available that abortion is so common. Surely whatever your feelings about abortion are, it is something to be avoided.

Reply Share 4 replies

+3 likes

**Let's support life**

3 days ago

Yes, but not by the morning after pill. Contraception is widely available and if you love the person you sleep with, then surely you can be happy with a child. In the US, typically 98.5% of abortions are from consensual sex.

Reply Share 2 replies

0 likes

**GdeStaël**

3 days ago

Well of course, lest occurrence of rape be staggering, especially as not all instances of coitus lead to pregnancy.

Love and wish of parenthood are separate sentiments, though often coinciding.

Reply Share

0 likes

**Steve Hill**

2 days ago

**134**  
shares

News Voices Culture Lifestyle

what social/peer/faith pressures are there not to use any of them?

Sorry but until the Vatican fundamentally changes its thinking on contraception, you can't use that as a get out of jail free card.

Reply Share

0 likes

**Steve Hill**

2 days ago

Unfortunately the feckwit zealots regard taking the morning after pill as \*being\* an abortion. So the Vatican etc says no.

Reply Share

0 likes

**Objective**

3 days ago

Did you heard about silent scream of a baby inside the womb? Check out before abortion..  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gON-8PP6zgQ>

Reply Share 4 replies

+2 likes

**Donald Trumps maggot cock**

3 days ago

Mental case

Reply Share

+2 likes

**julia.london**

3 days ago

Fetuses in the womb do not scream or cry because they do not breathe until they are born at a viable stage

Reply Share 1 reply

+1 likes

**Objective**

3 days ago

It seems you did not watch, baby clearly feels something and tries to move away, and opens his mouth clearly !

Reply Share

+1 likes

**GdeStaël**

3 days ago

The poor unicorns, extinction and all that again, eh?

I perso find the concept of foetal voices creepy, even if it as imaginary as the unicorns.

Reply Share

0 likes

**RealDonaldTrump**

3 days ago



impression of support. May be that's why so many of them are ugly and unhappy.

Reply Share 4 replies

-1 likes



**ToTheHills**

3 days ago

What bitter world do you live in?

Reply Share 2 replies

+3 likes



**jamie**

3 days ago

Don't feed the troll.

Reply Share

0 likes



**RealDonaldTrump**

3 days ago

Suffolk

Reply Share

-2 likes



**Reader**

3 days ago

What a nasty bitter comment, misgyony is so ugly.

Reply Share

0 likes

Show more comments



**P&O FERRIES**

**JOUW TRIP**

**JOUW SCHIP**

**BOEK NU**

VOORWAARDEN VAN TOEPASSING

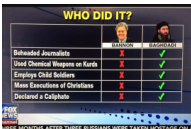
**indy100** TRENDING



The difference between Barack Obama and Donald Trump in two videos



People think this is the real reason the Trumps are suing the Daily Mail



Fox News defends Steve Bannon on the grounds that he's not the actual leader of Isis



If you do one thing today, don't click on this video



North London has a 'shortage of male strippers'

**MOST POPULAR**



of Netanyahu on corruption



US intelligence 'confirms truth' of some details of Trump dossier



Liverpool ban The Sun reporters from attending matches at Anfield



Donald Trump 'won't challenge Muslim travel ban' in Supreme Court



Eclipse, full moon and a comet to occur at the same time

Sponsored Links

17 Photos of Melania That Donald Trump Wishes We'd Forget

LifeDaily.com

New arrivals every day - HALF PRICE DELIVERY

yoox.com

The Stunning Wives Of The Richest Men In The World

Detonate

1 million people have adopted this new language learning method

Babbel

Father And Daughter Take The Same Photos For 35 Years. Don't Cry When...

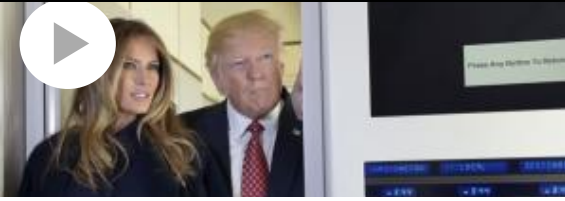
Ammazing-Woman.com

by Taboola

ADVERTISEMENT

Timberland met kortingen tot 75%

Promoted by Zalando Lounge



### Donald Trump 'won't challenge Muslim travel ban' in Supreme Court



Trump 'did not use earpiece' for Japanese PM news conference



How to dance if you want to seem attractive, according to study

## SPONSORED FEATURES



Discover the other side of Florida - Citrus County



Discover the other side of Florida - Naples



Discover the other side of Florida - Amelia Island and St Augustine



Discover the other side of Florida - Kissimmee



134 shares



Follow us:



[User Policies](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookie Policy](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Complaint Form](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Contributors](#)

[All Topics](#)

[Archive](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Subscriptions](#)

[Advertising Guide](#)

[Syndication](#)

[Evening Standard](#)

[Novaya Gazeta](#)

[Install our Apps](#)



