



Craig Whittaker MP

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Response to NMC Decision on Independent Midwives – March 2017

Thank you for contacting me about the Nursing and Midwifery Council's (NMC) recent decision that the indemnity scheme used by some independent midwives who are members of Independent Midwives UK (IMUK) is inappropriate.

An investigation into the indemnity scheme provided for midwife members of IMUK showed that independent midwives were relying on a scheme that had inadequate funds to settle significant claims should harm come to a woman or their baby during childbirth. IMUK currently has approximately 80 midwife members.

You may be aware that it has been a legal requirement since 2014 for all healthcare professionals, including midwives, to have an indemnity arrangement in place. The Government brought in this requirement to ensure that there was adequate redress for women and families should anything happen to them or their babies during childbirth. I understand that the vast majority of midwives in the UK are properly covered by an appropriate scheme.

I can assure you that the Government supports choice in maternity services, but this has to be a safe choice. It is for this reason that midwives are under a legal duty to have adequate insurance to cover the risks associated with carrying out deliveries.

The NMC is simply carrying out its statutory duty to protect patients in ensuring that midwives have appropriate indemnity cover.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP