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Sent: Thursday, 10 July 2025 1:30 AM
To: Surrogacy
Subject: Surrogacy Law Reform - Submission - J McShane

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Dear Commissioners,

I am particularly concerned about the inevitable cases of abuse of surrogate birth mothers in commercial arrangements.

The surrogate mother in a non-commercial arrangement may feel, at least initially, that she has noble intentions, and feel she is making the most generous gift. However, when a commercial contract is involved, this idea of an altruistically generous gift is not manifest. A gift presumes nothing in exchange, i.e. "no strings attached". A contract involving money taints this concept of a gift freely given.

Speaking plainly, commercial surrogacy is "rent a womb". This concept should not be normalised. It opens-up women to be "taken advantage of". The prospect of renting out my womb may get me out of immediate financial hardship, however, bringing me a lifetime of regret and physical and mental trauma.

Women in relative poverty are most vulnerable.

Those renting the womb, may be unhappy with the surrogate mother producing a sub-standard baby. This leads to looking at the baby as a commodity. Such a rejection of a potentially sub-optimal baby may force the surrogate mother to have an abortion.

Commercialisation and advertising create normalisation of a morally questionable practice.

Q 3: Ideally, prohibit all forms of surrogacy, and definitely prohibit commercial surrogacy.

Q 13: surrogacy advertising must be prohibited.

Q 16, 17, and 21: Those aspects of surrogacy must remain illegal

Yours faithfully,
John McShane
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