



10 DOWNING STREET

Conservative  
Pro-life Council  
(PATRON - Ref)

21st May 1984

Dear Mr Lennon,

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf to thank you for your letter of 3rd May inviting the Prime Minister to become a Patron of the Conservative Pro-Life Council.

I am grateful to you for your courtesy in inviting the Prime Minister to support this new project. In principle, however, she has, as Prime Minister, to make a strict rule that she does not associate herself with any particular pressure group, however worthy its aims and objects, partly because there would be no end to the numbers of such groups who would wish to claim her patronage, and discrimination becomes invidious under these circumstances; and partly because if pressure for legislative change is one of the objects in view for a particular pressure group, it is necessary for the Prime Minister to remain to some extent detached so as to be able to assess proposals for legislation on their merits.

I am sorry to bring this disappointing reply.

Yours sincerely  
Michael Alison

MICHAEL ALISON  
Parliamentary Private Secretary

Paul Lennon Esq

CONSERVATIVE PRO-LIFE COUNCIL  
31 Buckingham Road  
Edgware  
Middx

ca 4  
3 May 1984

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

About three weeks ago, I tabled a motion at the annual conference of the Greater London Young Conservatives calling on the Government to provide adequate Parliamentary time to allow an Abortion (Amendment) Bill to reach the Statute Book. This was debated and defeated.

One thing that emerged quite clearly from the debate was the appalling ignorance on the whole subject among well meaning people who opposed my motion. Totally unfounded statements were put forward and accepted by many of the people there.

As a result of this, I feel that some form of campaign is needed to educate our colleagues, so that at least if they continue to support the present law, it will not be because they are unaware of the facts. I am therefore proposing to form the Conservative Pro-Life Council, which will campaign within the Conservative Party, among Conservative Party members only to disseminate information on abortion and related issues.

I am writing to ask if you would consider being a patron. I know that in the past you have supported reform of the law to protect unborn children. This has encouraged many people to take a stand on this great moral issue, and will, I am certain inspire party members to join us in the Pro-Life Council.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Paul Lennon,

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