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Give midwives who want no part

in abortion the choice

Whatever your views on abortion, the decision handed down by the Supreme Court last week just doesn't seem right. In a landmark hearing, it decided that two Catholic midwives must supervise terminations as

part of their duties, despite them having asked to be excused from this aspect of their work. While they are free to decline to perform the procedure themselves — as is their right under the Abortion Act 1967 — the court decided that this did

not extend to supervising other staff members who were providing care to women undergoing an abortion.

While I have no moral issue with abortion, it is wrong to force people to take part in something that

they have strong moral qualms about. The women had argued that because of their religious beliefs they wanted no part of the process, and I don't think that's unreasonable.

That it had to go to court beggars belief. I can't

believe their objections couldn't have been accommodated by the hospital in some way.

I do hope that they, and others in a similar position, have a sensible manager who will brush all this nonsense aside and simply

rota their shifts in such a way that they are able to avoid involvement. The alternative is that two senior, experienced health-care professionals may have to leave their jobs, and that would serve no purpose at all.