

Medic in sex abortion case suspended

A doctor accused of agreeing to arrange an abortion because the foetus was a girl has been suspended for three months in a ruling understood to be the first of its kind in Britain.

Dr Palaniappan Rajmohan, who worked at the Calthorpe Clinic in Edgbaston, Birmingham, lied about the reasons for the termination, according to the ruling by the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service. He originally faced a criminal prosecution after an undercover sting by a newspaper. The case was dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service which said it was not in the public interest to pursue it. In March the CPS stepped in to prevent a private prosecution by an anti-abortion campaigner.

A pregnant woman, known as Ms A, was secretly filmed visiting Dr Rajmohan in 2012 as part of an undercover investigation into gender abortion. The police and the General Medical Council began inquiries after the doctor seemed to approve an abortion when the woman said she did not want a girl. The hearing, led by chairman Paul Curtis, found that Dr Rajmohan agreed to record a false reason for a termination, saying Ms A was too young.

Andrea Williams, 50, chief executive of Christian Concern, welcomed the decision and said questions had to be asked of the CPS. She said the case was the first where a doctor had been suspended for sex-selective abortion and the decision was "absolutely just".