

# David Paton on government's teenage pregnancy strategy

David Paton (pictured), chair of industrial economics at Nottingham University Business School, has written an article for the latest edition of the *Nursing Times*. I suggest reading it in full, though below are a few key quotations. Professor Paton's article, published before the [proposal to allow advertising abortion and contraception on television](#) hit the headlines, certainly helps reinforce the widespread feeling that advertising abortion on TV will do nothing to reduce the numbers.



Prof. Paton (among other things) says:

- "[T]he latest data shows that pregnancy and abortion rates for under-16s are higher now than when the [government's teenage pregnancy] strategy was published [in 1999]."
- "Many contraceptive methods offer no protection against sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Research published in *Sex Education* suggests that increased access to emergency contraception may be associated with higher teenage STI rates."
- "On the positive side, the academic evidence is clear that involving parents in decision-making is crucial."
- "[A]ll health professionals – and, indeed, taxpayers – should question the wisdom of PCTs spending scarce resources on measures such as school-based provision of emergency contraception that, at best, are ineffective and, at worst, may actually be contributing to poor sexual health among teenagers."