

23 May 2022

## **Subject: Abortion Services**

1. How much money has been spent on commissioning abortion services at Belfast Social Care Trust since the [Abortion \(Northern Ireland\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2020](#) took effect on 31 March 2020?

### **Spend on Women's Health Services**

**A detailed breakdown outlining how much money has been spent on services specifically relating to women's health during the financial years April 2020 to March 2021, and April 2021 to March 2022 (per month, if available) - breaking down expenditure into areas such as gynaecology, midwifery, and sexual/reproductive health, as well as any other subsections that may exist/be relevant, and also including what specific procedures and care that expenditure into each of these segments goes towards.**

Please see table attached with spending. Please note that the gynae and SRH are priced together.

**A detailed breakdown into how much money has specifically been allocated to abortion care at the Trust, including funding going towards all related procedures, and drugs used to carry out the termination of pregnancy (per month, if available), in the financial years April 2020 to March 2021, and April 2021 to March 2022.**

The EMA (early medical abortion) service continues to be non-commissioned, and is provided by the sexual and reproductive health team who currently require additional input to support the service provision. The team currently consists of 1.0wte band 7 team leader, 1.0wte band 3 HCAs, and 0.5wte admin staff members.

In addition, medical support consists of three SAS doctor sessions per week and additional consultant gynaecologist support for clinic sessions. The team's time is split between EMA and provision of contraceptive services, and it is impossible to calculate costs with any accuracy as service needs fluctuate widely.

Currently, we also have midwifery locum support for the EMA service, but we would not be able to provide the agency charge rate as this would be commercial in confidence. In accordance with the FOI Act 2000, we cannot fulfil this part of your request under Section 43 Commercial Interest. The arguments to maintain this exemption outweigh the arguments for disclosure. Its disclosure would be prejudicial to the commercial interest of the providers

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It is not possible to calculate cost figures as the service is not broken down into separate termination services and is integrated with other parts of the overall service.

**2. What abortion services are currently available at Belfast Social Care Trust? When were they made available?**

Early Medical Abortion, up to 9 weeks and 6 days gestation is available in Belfast Trust. It has been available since April 2020.

**3. What is the average wait time for an abortion at Belfast Social Care Trust?** Please separate these figures into (a) where the pregnancy has **not** exceeded its twelfth week and (b) where the pregnancy **has** exceeded its twelfth week.

From May 2021 to January 2022, the average time between a consultation and an EMA appointment is 2.5 days. This is for EMA up to 9 weeks and 6 days only.

**4. Have there been any deaths resulting from abortions at Belfast Social Care Trust since the [Abortion \(Northern Ireland\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2020](#) took effect on 31 March 2020?**

There have not been any deaths resulting from abortion in Belfast Trust since April 2020.