

9 November 2022

Termination of Pregnancy

- 1. The number of terminations of pregnancy carried out on grounds of severe fetal impairment or fatal fetal abnormality in the Trust since March 2020.**

The number of terminations carried out on these grounds has been 32.

- 2. The number of persons travelling to England or other parts of the UK for feticide and then returning to your Trust to complete the termination of pregnancy.**

There have been 8 transfers since April 2022 for terminations.

We do not have the numbers for 2020/21, as to provide this information would require a manual trawl through each women's viewpoint reports, which would take more than 18 hours.

The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

- 3. A copy of any Trust policies and protocols relating to termination of pregnancy and abortion provision.**

None. This is a new service and documents are currently being developed. Whilst there is no Trust policy, the service follows General Medical Council (GMC)/Royal College of Nursing (RCN) guidelines re conscientious objection.

We also have an in-house protocol for Early Medical Abortion but this is not an official Trust policy. Copy protocol attached in separate document.

- 4. The number of Trust employees who have registered their objection to participating in abortion service provision, broken down by their job titles (e.g. GPs, obstetricians/gynaecologists, anaesthetists, nurses, midwives, administrative staff, etc.).**

There have been 7 employees who have registered their objection - 3 doctors and 4 nurses.

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5. **A copy of any Trust policies and protocols relating to conscientious objection to abortion and termination of pregnancy, including but not limited to the methods of registering conscientious objection.**

None.

6. **A copy of any Trust policies or programs regarding training on values clarification on abortion for relevant staff in abortion services.**

No values clarification training yet in Belfast Trust.

7. **The number of complaints filed at the Trust because of a failure or delay in providing abortion services or information based on conscientious objection. Please indicate the specific services denied the job title of the conscientious objector, and the action taken by the Trust.**

There have been no complaints relating to access to Early Medical Abortion/Conscientious Objection.