

21 October 2024

Abortion Service

Could I please request the following under the Freedom of Information Act?

The number of abortions / pregnancy terminations that have been carried out within the Belfast Trust since 2017.

Could you please provide a breakdown annually by age of mother, and gestation period?

Could you also provide the number of referrals for abortion services of any kind that have been made from the Belfast Trust to another Trust, either inside Northern Ireland or outside NI – i.e. GB or ROI, with a breakdown of where the referral was made to?

Likewise, could you advise on the number of referrals that have been made from other Trusts to the Belfast Trust?

Information attached in separate Excel document.

Note: The Fetal Medicine Database only started from 2022 and this does not include mothers' ages. Therefore, we could not provide this data without pulling charts individually. To provide this information would require more than 18 hours work.

Belfast 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.

Earlier data was pulled from old records kept at ward level.