

FOI 3841

14th July 2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Has there been change to the administration and extent of conscientious objection to abortion for nurses doctors and health workers in your hospitals? Have things like the setting up of the trolley and the positioning of the patient which was previously covered by conscientious objection now been taken out of the category for which conscientious objection may be claimed?

What changes have you made to the administration and extent of coverage of conscientious objection to taking part in abortion have you made since abortion has been introduced in Northern Ireland?

Response:

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) can confirm that there has been no change to the criteria governing conscientious objection.

SHSCT, in line with all Health and Social Care Trusts, operates in accordance with the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020. There have been no locally implemented changes to the administration or extent of conscientious objection for nurses, doctors, or other healthcare workers since the introduction of abortion services in Northern Ireland.

This includes no changes to the scope of activities to which conscientious objection may apply. The Trust continues to follow the legislative framework and associated guidance and has not introduced any amendments regarding specific elements of care (such as preparation activities or patient positioning).

Email: Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net