

Question:

Timeframe:

1 April 2022 – present day

Subject matter:

Northern Ireland Executive and Northern Ireland department policy, legislation, guidance and related activity concerning:

(a) safe access zones around abortion services in Northern Ireland, including the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) Act (Northern Ireland) 2023 and any related regulations, guidance, implementation or enforcement measures.

Information requested:

1. External engagement and submissions

Emails, letters, briefing materials, legal analyses and consultation responses provided by the following organisations and/or their representatives:

- Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF International / ADF UK)
- 40 Days for Life
- Right To Life UK
- Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)
- Alliance of Pro-Life Students (APS)

2. Stakeholder engagement

Records of meetings between Northern Ireland Executive officials, departmental officials, Ministers, special advisers and the above organisations or their representatives relating to the subject matter described above, including:

- meeting logs
- attendee lists
- agendas
- minutes
- notes
- readouts

3. Correspondence with Members of the Legislative Assembly

Correspondence (including attachments) between Northern Ireland departments and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) relating to these issues.

4. Correspondence concerning the policy, passage, commencement, implementation, interpretation or enforcement of safe access zone legislation where the correspondence involved advocacy, campaigning, legal representations, policy submissions, consultation responses, requests for meetings, or other representations made by external organisations.

Limited to correspondence involving any of the following organisations and/or their representatives:

- Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF International and ADF UK);
- 40 Days for Life;
- Right To Life UK;
- Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC);
- Alliance of Pro-Life Students (APS).
- Precious Life
- Both Lives
- CARE NI

Response:

I can confirm that the Department of Health has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 23 June 2026. I have attached all relevant documents in the separate zip file*. For ease of reference the records have been numbered as listed at **Annex A** below. Please note that record number 16 contains MLA correspondence sent to the Department dated 11 August 2022 and therefore falls within the scope of part 3 your request, however a response was not issued due to the absence of a Minister at that time as a result of the suspension of the Assembly.

A number of redactions have been made to some of these records under section 40(2) of the FOI Act – personal information (note this relates to names of Departmental staff below senior official level and staff in MLA offices).

There have also been a number of Assembly Questions by MLAs relating to this topic during the period covered by your request. As the responses to these questions have been published and are already in the public domain they have not been included as part of this response. They can be found using the following link:

<https://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/subjectsearch1.aspx?&ss=Zmt9I5UBoGUz03ZnnDWCrzjJrtR/sJk+&pn=0>

* If you would like to request a copy of attachments related to this response, please contact FOI@health-ni.gov.uk

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