

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer  
**Dr Elizabeth Mitchell**



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

**HSS (MD) 29/2010**

Chief Executives, Health & Social Care Trusts  
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward  
dissemination to all Trust Doctors*)  
Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts (*for onward  
dissemination to all Trust Midwives and Nurses*)  
All General Practitioners  
Chief Executive, Health & Social Care Board (*for  
distribution to Board employed doctors*)  
Chief Executive, Public Health Agency  
Chief Executive, Business Services Organisation  
Director of Public Health, Public Health Agency  
(*for distribution to PHA employed doctors*)  
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency (*for  
distribution to PHA employed Midwives and  
Nurses*)

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS MD 29/2010  
Date: 27 July 2010

Dear Colleague

## **GUIDANCE ON THE TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the withdrawal of the Department's interim Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy published in February 2010.

As you will be aware, this interim Guidance was published in February 2010 and omitted sections on conscientious objection and counselling following a Judicial Review decision in November 2009.

The Department has now redrafted the sections on counselling and conscientious objection and has issued revised Guidance for consultation. You will receive notice of this in separate correspondence. Final Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy: The Law and Clinical Practice in Northern Ireland will be published by the Department in due course.

Yours sincerely

**DR ELIZABETH MITCHELL**  
Deputy Chief Medical Officer



