

17 June 2021

Via Email Only: Keith.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk

Keith McBride
Clerk
Committee for Health
Room 410, Parliament Buildings
Stormont, Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Mr McBride

RE PROTESTS AT PREMISES PROVIDING ABORTION SERVICES

I refer to your letter dated 11 June 2021 in relation to the above within which you requested Trusts to provide an overview of plans in place for implementation in the event of any intimidation or harassment by protesters towards staff and patients at premises providing Early Medical Abortion (EMA) services.

The South Eastern Trust can confirm that to date no protests have taken place at any of the Trust facilities. In preparation for any future protests and potential for intimidation or harassment towards patients and staff, the Trust can confirm the following measures have been put in place.

- A risk assessment has been completed and in the event of protests developing the accommodation where the Early Medical Abortion (EMA) service is currently delivered can be secured to maintain the safety of staff and service users until further assistance (Trust Security/PSNI) is available.
- The clinical area has two exits which, if required, could be used to facilitate evacuation of staff and service users away from any protestors. Should protests continue, there are options to relocate the service to other Trust premises.

I trust this response provides some clarity on the Trusts current position.

Yours sincerely



SEAMUS MCGORAN
Interim Chief Executive

cc: David Robinson, Director of Hospital Services
Claire Smyth, Interim Director of HR & Corporate Affairs



Committee for Health

Mr Seamus McGoran
Chief Executive
South Eastern H&SC Trust

By email Valerie.Woods@setrust.hscni.net

Our Ref.: C177/21

11 June 2021

Dear Mr McGoran,

Re: Protests at premises providing abortion services

At its meeting on 10 June, the Committee for Health discussed the matter of protests held outside premises providing abortion services and other healthcare services.

Whilst recognising that there is a right to protest, the Committee is concerned that both patients and staff may feel intimidated and harassed by protesters. The Committee agreed to write to the H&SC Trusts to ask what measures they have taken, or plan to take, to address these concerns.

I am writing in similar terms to the Department of Justice and the Department of Health.

I would appreciate a reply by 25 June 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Keith McBride
Clerk
Committee for Health

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