

FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,  
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
Edwin Poots MLA



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

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James Allister QC MLA  
38 Henry Street  
Harryville  
BALLYMENA  
BT42 3AH

Our Ref: SUB/997/2012

Date: 10 October 2012

Dear Mr Allister

**Re: AQW 9917/11-15**

On 6 June, I issued a response to an Assembly question you tabled asking how many human embryos have been destroyed in each year since the introduction of publically funded IVF treatment.

I have now been advised that as fertilisation and embryology issues are reserved matters, I should not have responded to this question, but rather should have referred you to the UK Government for response. As a result, I have now amended the answer to AQW 9917/11-15 and have forwarded it to the Assembly Library and Business Office for information; a copy is also attached for your information.

I have taken steps to make sure that procedures are in place to ensure that the correct protocols are adhered to in the future.

**Edwin Poots MLA**  
**Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety**

DEPARTMENT FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

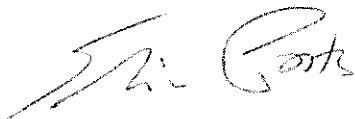
DATE FOR ANSWER: 6 April 2012

ORDINARY WRITTEN NO: AQW 9917/11-15

**Jim Allister (North Antrim):** To ask the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many human embryos have been destroyed in each year since the introduction of publicly funded IVF treatment.

**Edwin Poots**

As fertilisation and embryology issues are reserved matters, this question should be referred to the UK Government for response.



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Signed and approved by the Minister for Health Social Services and Public Safety

Date: 10.10.12