



## Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare

### Statement on the publication of “Guidance for Health and Social Care Professionals on Termination of Pregnancy in Northern Ireland”

FSRH has noted the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)’s guidance on application of the current law regarding abortion in Northern Ireland. We believe these guidelines will enable health and social care professionals to confidently undertake their duties, without the unnecessary fear that previously existed. We welcome the clarity provided by the statements that “It is not unlawful to inform a woman of services available in other jurisdictions” and that “support and advice should be available whether or not the woman meets the requirement for a lawful termination of pregnancy in Northern Ireland”. We also welcome the commitment to provision of pregnancy and parenting options advice and post-abortion counselling.

FSRH hopes that the DHSSPS will ensure training of Health and Social Care professionals is implemented to make this guidance widely understood by clinicians across NI and we will aim to work with other organisations to support these important next steps.

Ends

29.03.2016

#### Notes to editors:

- The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (formerly called the Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Healthcare). It grants diplomas, certificates, fellowships and equivalent recognition of specialist knowledge and skills in family planning and reproductive health care. It has over 16,000 doctors and nurses of whom approximately 10,000 are general practitioners. As a body it promotes conferences and lectures, provides members with an advisory service and publishes *The Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*. For more information please visit [www.fsrh.org](http://www.fsrh.org)
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for Northern Ireland (March 2016) *Guidance for Health and Social Care Professionals on Termination of Pregnancy in Northern Ireland* Available at: <https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/guidance-termination-pregnancy.pdf>
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