

These notes refer to the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) Act (Northern Ireland) 2023 (c.1) which received Royal Assent on 6 February 2023

Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) Act (Northern Ireland) 2023

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Section 6 – Enforcement of safe access zone by a constable

This section gives powers to the police to enforce a safe access zone. If a police officer believes an offence is being committed, the police officer can direct the offender to leave the safe access zone, and may also use force to remove them from the safe access zone. If a police officer believes a person is recording in breach of the law, the officer may direct that person to cease recording.

Refusing to follow a direction, or resisting being removed will be a criminal offence, with a level 4 fine. The punishment does not include jail time.