

**2021 No. 365**

**HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES,  
NORTHERN IRELAND**

**The Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2021**

*Approved by both Houses of Parliament*

*Made - - - - 22nd March 2021*

*Laid before Parliament 23rd March 2021*

*Coming into force - - 31st March 2021*

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 9(4) and 11(2) of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019(a).

**Citation, commencement and extent**

1. These Regulations—

- (a) may be cited as the Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2021;
- (b) come into force on 31st March 2021;
- (c) extend to Northern Ireland only.

**Implementation of CEDAW recommendations**

2.—(1) If the Secretary of State considers that any action capable of being taken by a relevant person is required for the purpose of implementing the recommendations in paragraphs 85 and 86 of the CEDAW report, the Secretary of State may direct that the action must be taken.

(2) After giving a direction under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State must—

- (a) lay a copy of the direction before Parliament, and
- (b) publish the direction in such a manner as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a “relevant person” means—

- (a) the First Minister;
- (b) the deputy First Minister;
- (c) a Northern Ireland Minister;
- (d) a Northern Ireland department;
- (e) the Regional Health and Social Care Board established by section 7(1) of the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009(b);

---

(a) 2019 c. 22.  
(b) 2009 c. 1 (N.I.)

- (f) the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being established by section 12(1) of that Act.

22nd March 2021

*Robin Walker*  
Minister of State  
Northern Ireland Office

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations confer on the Secretary of State the power to direct the First Minister, deputy First Minister, a Northern Ireland Minister, a Northern Ireland department, the Regional Health and Social Care Board, and the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-being.

The power to direct is exercisable where the Secretary of State considers that there is action those persons are capable of taking and that the action is required for the purpose of implementing the recommendations in paragraphs 85 and 86 of the CEDAW report.

The CEDAW report means the Report of the Inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women published on 6 March 2018 (CEDAW/C/OP.8/GBR/1). The CEDAW report is available at the following website:

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fOP.8%2fGBR%2f1&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fOP.8%2fGBR%2f1&Lang=en)

A hard copy of the report may be requested in writing from the Northern Ireland Office, Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SH.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.

---

© Crown copyright 2021

Printed in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited under the authority and superintendence of Jeff James, Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament.

£4.90

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2021/365](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2021/365)

ISBN 978-0-11-130252-1



9 780111 302521