

## Press release

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# Fourth Annual Report on Notifications in accordance with the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018

From [Department of Health \(/en/organisation/departments-of-health/\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-health/)

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The fourth Annual Report on the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018, has been laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas as required under section 20 of the Act. The report covers the period from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2022.

In introducing the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018, the government acted on the instruction of the Irish people. It was - and is - a priority for the government to have a medically delivered, safe and regulated service for the termination of pregnancy in place.

Material published on information contained in notifications is restricted to limit the risk of identification in what is a private, confidential matter between patients and their doctors.

The Annual Report shows that in total 8,156 medical procedures were carried out under the Act in 2022.

In 2022, 22 procedures were carried out due to a risk to life or health under the grounds set out in section 9 of the Act; 4 due to a risk to life or health in an emergency situation under section 10; 88 due to a fatal foetal anomaly under section 11; and 8,042 in early pregnancy under the grounds set out in section 12 of the Act.

Section 20 of the 2018 Act requires the date on which the termination of pregnancy was carried out to be notified to the Minister of Health. The data for 2022 indicate that the months with the highest number of terminations carried out were January (783 notifications), March (751) and December (752). The month with fewest notifications was July (487).

Finally, under section 20 of the 2018 Act, notification forms also collect information on the county or place of residence of the pregnant woman. The counties with the highest number of terminations recorded was Dublin (3,005), Cork (734) and Limerick (377). The county cited in fewest notifications was Leitrim, with only 48 noting it as the county of residence of the pregnant woman. The data showed that Northern Ireland was the place of residence notified in 12 cases, while 5 notifications recorded the place of residence as another location outside of Ireland.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has also submitted a report, as required under section 18 of the Act, on Reviews carried out in 2022. This report has also been laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas. The HSE report shows that 4 applications for review were received (2 applications were subsequently withdrawn) therefore the number of reviews carried out was two to the Executive in 2022. One of the applications was found to have met the requirements for a lawful termination of pregnancy and one did not meet the requirements.

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