

## Final report for granted project

<b>Submission Date</b>	2018-06-06 11:26:23
<b>Date of sending out the form:</b>	31-05-2018
<b>Contact person/applicant:</b>	Abigail Aiken
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<b>Title of the granted project</b>	The Impacts of Restrictive Abortion Laws in Northern Ireland: Women's Experiences and Opportunities for Policy Change
<b>Amount granted by the ESC (in euro)</b>	7000 (but only 5250 euro has been paid to applicant)
<b>Project number:</b>	P-2016-A-02
<b>Allocated mentor:</b>	Amos ber
<b>Date project actually started:</b>	01-05-2017
<b>Date of completion:</b>	01-06-2018
<b>Please provide a report of your findings and data.</b>	<p>We sought to examine decision-making processes surrounding how Irish/Northern Irish women chose whether to travel or use online telemedicine to access abortion, as well as their subsequent experiences with their chosen pathway, including outcomes, complications, economic cost, and social and emotional support.</p> <p>Between May 2017 and March 2018, we conducted anonymous in-depth interviews with 68 women living in Northern Ireland or Ireland. Interviews were audio recorded with permission, transcribed verbatim, and coded by the research team according to an iteratively developed coding guide. We discussed and resolved coding discrepancies as a team and used the principles of grounded theory to analyze the coded data and draw key themes.</p> <p>We have identified several keys themes: 1) Self-managing a medication abortion at home using online telemedicine can be a preference over travelling abroad to access clinical abortion services; 2) Regardless of the pathway chosen, women experience a lack of pre- and post-abortion support through the Irish healthcare system; 3) Feelings of desperation while searching for safe abortion care can lead to considering or attempting dangerous methods; and 4) Irish abortion law has impacts beyond physical health considerations, engendering shame and stigma.</p> <p>Despite restrictive abortion laws, women in Northern Ireland and Ireland still obtain abortions. However, the laws negatively impacts women's ability to discuss their options with local healthcare professionals and to seek follow-up care, and can have serious implications for their physical and emotional health. Findings provide evidence to inform public and policy discourse on Northern Ireland and Ireland's abortion laws.</p>

**Please provide a final detailed budget on how much you have spent. Was any money not spent? Receipts may be requested.**

Total received: £4,429.05 (5,250 Euros)

Total spent: £4,150.44

All funds were used to cover transcription services for the 68 in-depth interviews. Charges for each individual transcript varied by audio length and sound quality.

Total remaining (unspent): £278.61

**How will your findings be presented?**

Publication in journal  
Presentation

**Was your paper published? Indicate journal and acceptance date**

We have published one paper in BMJ Sexual and Reproductive Health, published on May 15th 2018. We have a second paper in progress and hope it will be published in the next 4-6 months.

**Presentation – note meeting organisation and date**

Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Eighth Amendment:  
Invited in Oct 2017 to address and present research findings to the Irish parliamentary committee charged with deciding the terms and scope of Ireland's 2018 abortion referendum.

International Federation of Professional Abortion and Contraception Associates (FIAPAC) Invited Panel, Sep 2018: Advances in abortion rights: Research, advocacy, and policy change in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

**Add any other information you feel we should have**

Thank you very much for the opportunity to do this important research, which was used to inform the policy debate for Ireland's abortion referendum, and which will also inform upcoming debates on abortion law in Northern Ireland.

**Please let us know whether having a mentor has been helpful or not**

N/A

**Full Name**

Abigail Aiken

**Date**

06-06-2018

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