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25 March 2022

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RE Official information request CDHB 10810(a)

I refer to your email dated 2 March 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. This request being a follow up to our response to you for Official Information Act request CDHB 10810. Specifically:

- 1. In your opening sentence you refer to abortions and terminations. As all abortions have the objective of terminating the life of an unborn child, how do you differentiate between an abortion and a termination?**

In the context of this response the terminology is interchangeable.

- 2. You advise that an unborn baby's life was terminated at 29 weeks gestation due to fetal abnormality incompatible with life; what does this mean in practice and does it include Trisomy 21 and other conditions that are serious but not life threatening?**

Incompatible with life means that if born the child would be unable to survive independently, therefore this does not apply to the majority of Trisomy 21 cases or other conditions that are not life threatening.

- 3. Am I correct in assuming that telehealth medical abortions for women who reside in the CDHB area are still not included in your abortion statistics, nor are medical abortions facilitated by local Registered Medical Practitioners, midwives and practice nurses?**

All of the abortions carried out surgically or medically supervised by the CDHB staff are included in our statistics.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB