

PRESS RELEASE

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INFORMING CHOICES CALL ON HEALTH MINISTER TO ‘ACT WITH LOVE’ AND RESTORE FUNDING FOR PRIMARY CARE VASECTOMY

This Valentine’s Day, Informing Choices NI (ICNI) are calling on the Health Minister to act with love and restore funding for Primary Care vasectomy.

Since 2018 over 7,500 vasectomies have been provided in Primary Care settings, with 95% of men rating the service as excellent or very good. However, following funding cuts the service was suspended, leaving Northern Ireland as the only place in the United Kingdom and Ireland without access to Primary Care vasectomy.

Commenting during Sexual Health Week, Ruairi Rowan, ICNI’s Director of Advocacy and Policy, said:

“There have been many positive developments regarding access to contraception in Northern Ireland, including the introduction of the C-Card initiative, the provision of free emergency contraception in pharmacies, and advances in online services through SH:24. However, removing funding from Primary Care vasectomy is a regressive step, which perpetuates health inequalities and denies men and their partners essential choices regarding their sexual health, and long-term family options.

“Following the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive, ICNI are calling on the Health Minister to act with love on Valentine’s Day and restore funding to vasectomy and Elective Care. This will reduce unintended pregnancies, and ensure vasectomy is recognised as a vital and inclusive aspect of reproductive healthcare.”

ENDS