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**TO NEWS-DESK**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Abortions in England and Wales on Residents of the Irish Republic**  
**Numbered 3,451 just 284 less than in 2014**

Abortions on residents of the Irish Republic in English and Welsh clinics numbered 3,451 in 2015 according to the Report from the English Department of Health released on 17<sup>th</sup> May...

The 3,451 abortions in 2015 is a rate of 3.6 abortions per 1,000 female residents aged 15-44. The rate for English and Welsh residents aged 15-44 is 17.0 per 1,000 women, nearly five times the Irish rate. The Irish abortion rate is approximately the same as it was in 1978, despite a significant increase in the female population since then.

In numerical terms, abortions levelled off in the 1980s, then rose sharply after 1992, then rose to a peak of 6,675 in 2001 (a rate of 7.5 per 1,000 women). There has been a steady decrease since then and the 3,451 abortions in 2015 shows a 48.3% drop on what it was in 2001.

The English Department of Health again showed the numbers from all Irish counties having abortions. Dublin had 41%, of the total, Cork 9%, Galway 5% .and the rest spread over the remaining counties.

263 Irish teenagers had abortions in 2015 compared with 273 in 2014 and 939 in 2001. 16 Irish residents had abortions over 20 week's gestation.

Of the 185,824 abortions carried out on residents of England and Wales in 2015, 98.0% were carried out on Ground C and 99.95% of those were given on mental health grounds. This is abortion on demand. The last Irish Government introduced this concept into Irish law in its 2013 legislation!

As well as giving numbers of residents who had abortions in each county, the Report also tells us that 644 of the Irish residents having abortions were married or in a civil partnership. It also reports that 135 residents had abortions under Ground E in anticipation that the baby would be physically or mentally defective. Some of the conditions listed are certainly not "fatal" foetal abnormality. The Irish residents are also listed by ethnicity or country of origin and it lists 2,702 (78% of all residents having abortions) as being of Irish origin

**Note 1: For further information contact John O'Reilly at 01-6854038**

Note 2: The Second Look Project is a Charity founded in 2002. Its function is to study, and explain issues and defend human life at all stages of development from conception to natural death.

Note 3: The number of women in the Republic aged 15-44 is taken as 959,000 (CSO projection for 2015).