



The Regulation and  
Quality Improvement  
Authority

press release

11 November 2010

## **Strictly Embargoed until 2pm Thursday 11 November 2010**

### **RQIA Review of McDermott brothers' case published**

Today, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) published its independent review of the McDermott brothers' case, which examined the duties and responsibilities of the Western Health and Social Care Trust, and made a number of recommendations for future learning.

Glenn Houston, RQIA Chief Executive and Chair of the review team, stated:

**"RQIA found that the trust discharged its statutory functions in relation to this case, particularly in relation to child protection and the care and treatment for persons with a learning disability. RQIA also noted that the trust delivered on its responsibilities under public protection and in its interaction with criminal justice agencies."**

However, during the review, survivors told RQIA about their concerns regarding the trust's communication with them. A recommendation has been made to ensure that the Western Trust and other partner organisations maintain proactive and meaningful engagement with survivors and the Donagh community regarding this case.

Whilst it was recognised that the Western Trust provided additional funding to enhance access to counselling and support services, there is a need to ensure that individuals have timely information on how to access them. Therefore, a recommendation has been made to ensure that information about services for survivors of sexual abuse should be made available as early as possible and following disclosure of abuse to the PSNI.

Mr Houston continued: "**Although supervision and treatment orders (STOs) are relatively rare, RQIA believes that there is a need to develop specific guidance for all trusts to clarify their responsibilities in relation to these orders. To inform the development of this guidance, relevant Departments should review the legislation on STOs.**"

In conclusion, Mr Houston paid tribute to the survivors who shared their experiences with the review team, and thanked the Western Trust for its cooperation during the review.

**END**

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### **Editors' notes**

#### **About RQIA**

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) is the independent body responsible for monitoring and inspecting the availability and quality of health and social care services in Northern Ireland, and encouraging improvements in the quality of those services.

This review has been undertaken under article 35(1)(b) of The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003.