



The **Regulation** and
Quality Improvement
Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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Putting public participation at the centre of health and social care regulation

Northern Ireland's health and social care regulator, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) has just published its draft Public Participation Strategy for consultation. This draft Strategy explains how RQIA aims to engage with the public in all aspects of its work to improve the quality of health and social care in Northern Ireland.

The Public Participation Manager, Roisin Kelly said "**Public participation plays an important role in the work of the RQIA. By listening to and acting on the views and opinions of the public, RQIA will ensure that we respond appropriately to existing and emerging issues within health and social care.**"

Roisin Kelly continued: "**It is our aim to be more accessible, responsive and targeted in how we monitor the quality of health and social care - by engaging more effectively with the public. This draft Strategy will help us to ensure that participation is at the centre of our work - by engaging with the public in a meaningful way.**"

The draft Strategy has built upon existing engagement and partnership approaches used by RQIA and will provide further co-ordination of public participation in the future. To support the development of this Strategy and to involve the public in a meaningful way, a Public Participation Advisory Group was established with membership drawn from a wide range of stakeholders.

RQIA's Public Participation Manager is confident that the Strategy will be a positive step towards effective public involvement in the organisation's work:

"We believe that this draft Strategy will ensure a solid basis for continued public participation in our work. RQIA welcomes your views its draft Public Participation Strategy, and invites comments to RQIA by 5pm on Tuesday 30th September 2008."

ENDS

Editors' Notes

Further Information on RQIA's draft Public Participation Strategy

For further information, to discuss any aspect of RQIA's draft Public participation Strategy, set up a meeting, or to request a copy, please contact please contact:

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About RQIA

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) is a non-departmental public body established in 2005 under The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. Its role is to improve the quality of health and social care provision in Northern Ireland, and to give independent assurance to the public on the safety and effectiveness of these services. Both RQIA's Board and staff are *independent* from health and social care organisations in Northern Ireland and the DHSSPS.