



## **RQIA Publishes Muckamore Abbey Hospital Inspection Report (July 2023 -May 2024)**

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) is the independent body responsible for regulating and inspecting the quality and availability of Northern Ireland's health and social care services.

In 2023, following concerns identified with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust's management of adverse incidents at Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH), the Department of Health's Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) requested that RQIA examine previous adverse incidents at the hospital, to establish whether reporting was in line with established regional serious adverse incident (SAI) and early alert (EA) reporting criteria. (A SAI is defined as any event or circumstance that led or could have led to unintended or unexpected harm, loss or damage.)

RQIA's inspection sought to establish whether incidents that occurred within MAH were being reported in line with the definition and reporting criteria outlined in the regional Procedure for the Reporting and Follow up of Serious Adverse Incidents (Department of Health, 2016) and to determine the effectiveness of the incident management processes within MAH.

Today, RQIA published the findings of this inspection, which used a sampling methodology to examine 398 incidents from the 2,765 incidents reported and managed through the Belfast Trust's incident system between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023. While all incidents examined by RQIA had been reported and managed through the Belfast Trust's incident management system, 34 incidents which met the regional criteria for a SAI were not reported or managed in accordance with the regional procedure.

Since the conclusion of the inspection, the Belfast Trust has completed a detailed analysis of the incidents, and taken action to address the findings from RQIA's inspection, which includes reporting the 34 incidents to SPPG. Actions are also being taken forward in relation to incidents that had not been part of the sample audited.

RQIA will continue to assess, monitor and review information provided by the Belfast Trust, to ensure incident reporting processes are in line with its policies and the Regional Procedures.

### **Ends**

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