



13 October 2022

## Health Minister Robin Swann appoints Christine Collins, MBE, as Chair of the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

Welcoming the appointment, RQIA Chief Executive Briege Donaghy said:

**“On behalf of my colleagues at RQIA, I welcome the appointment of Christine Collins as Authority Chair. Since her appointment in June 2020 as interim Chair, Christine has led a programme of transformation at RQIA. She has placed a clear focus on improving safety and quality, informing service transformation, and building relationships.**

**In line with our core purpose *“Working together to improve safety and quality in health and social care services”*, the Chair and Authority Members play a key role in working to develop strong partnerships with key stakeholders. These include the Patient and Client Council, the Commissioners for Older People and for Children and Young People, fellow systems and professional regulators, and most importantly - those using health and social care services and their advocates across Northern Ireland”.**

Authority Chair, Christine Collins, said:

**“I am privileged to lead RQIA, Northern Ireland’s independent regulator of health and social care services at this time of change in health and social care. My clear focus is on improving safety and quality and informing service transformation, on the basis of strengthened relationships.**

**Key to doing this is listening to, learning from, and acting on the experience and knowledge of service users, their families, all those who work in health and social care, and the wider community. [RQIA’s Draft Strategic Plan 2022-27](#) is currently out for public consultation, and I encourage everyone to participate, and help us shape what we do, and how we do it, over the next five years.”**

**ENDS**

For further information, contact Malachy Finnegan, RQIA Communications Manager, email: [malachy.finnegan@rqia.org.uk](mailto:malachy.finnegan@rqia.org.uk), tel: 028 9536 1921.

## Notes to Editors

The RQIA was established by the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. It is an independent health and social care regulatory body, whose primary duties are to keep the Department informed about the quality and availability of health and social care services, ensure regulatory compliance, and encourage improvement in the quality of services.

### **RQIA's Draft Strategic Plan 2022-27**

RQIA's draft Strategic Plan is currently out to public consultation for a 12-week period, closing on 17 November 2022.

This consultation sets out to engage with all stakeholders on the core purpose of RQIA, our strategic objectives, and actions we plan to take to deliver on these objectives:

- Improving safety and quality through effective information gathering, listening and creating networks to share learning, good practice and adopt improvement
- Providing an independent view on the quality of health and social care services against required standards through robust regulation.
- Building relationships and partnerships, and
- Informing service transformation by using our findings to influence policy decisions, raise standards and shape future services

RQIA would encourage anyone with an interest in health and social care services to consider and respond to our consultation proposals, published on our [website](#).

A series of online consultation events are taking place over the next fortnight (on 18, 24, and 27 October 2022). To book a place, visit: [bookwhen.com/rqia](https://bookwhen.com/rqia).