



6 September 2022

RQIA Publishes Annual Report and Accounts, 2021-22.

Today, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA), Northern Ireland's independent regulator of health and social care services, has published its Annual Report and Accounts. These give an overview of RQIA's activities and performance for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Every day, RQIA works to keep patients and service users safe, and ensure that everyone in Northern Ireland experiences a better quality of health and social care as a result of its regulatory actions, inspections, reviews and audits. It is committed to bring about improvement across the health and social care system, in the public sector as well as the independent sector.

Speaking at the launch of the Annual Report and Accounts, The Authority's Chief Executive Briege Donaghy said: **"The Authority is pleased to publish its Annual Report and Accounts for the 2021-22 year. This covers a period of sustained change and progress for RQIA, amidst the very considerable pressures faced across health and social care in Northern Ireland.**

During the year, key achievements included:

- **Working collaboratively across the health and social care system in the regional response to the Covid-19 pandemic.**
- **Conducting over 1,700 inspections across regulated services, mental health and learning disability services and hospital services, and publishing our Inspection findings on our website.**
- **Publishing a series of Review reports including:**
 - **Services for Vulnerable Persons Detained in Northern Ireland Prisons**
 - **Out-of-Hours Urgent Care Services**
 - **Review of Governance in Independent Hospitals and Hospices in Northern Ireland.**
- **Continuing the Expert Review of Records of Deceased Patients of Dr Watt in collaboration with experts from Royal College of Physicians (our Family Liaison Team is currently engaging with the bereaved families involved in this Review on the outcome of this work).**
- **Embedding collaborative working and partnership arrangements with key partners including the Commissioners for Older People and Children, and those representing service users and families and lived experience.**

- **Reviewing our position on publication of children’s services inspection reports, in partnership with stakeholders** (the resulting proposals are currently open for [public consultation](#)).“

The Interim Authority Chair, Christine Collins, MBE, said: **“RQIA continues to strive to ensure that all health and social care services are safe, effective, compassionate and well-led, and are listening carefully to patients and service users so that they can deliver improved person centred care.**

Internally we have worked to build a resilient and responsive organisation with a renewed sense of purpose, with strong governance arrangements, and a committed and skilled workforce. I want to acknowledge the professionalism of our RQIA staff, and to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

During the year, the Authority, working closely with its Chief Executive and senior team, has worked hard to reframe RQIA’s strategic purpose and direction. We want to move to an outcomes-based approach, using effective partnerships with stakeholders, and close engagement with service users and their families, to deliver on what is important to people. At the moment, we are consulting on our Draft Strategic Plan, which sets out our future direction. We very much welcome the views of patients, service users and the public, as well as all those working in health and social care, in shaping the way ahead. Please have your say, and respond to that [consultation](#).”

You can access a copy of our Annual report and Accounts on [RQIA’s website](#).

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

The RQIA was established by the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. RQIA’s primary duties are to provide independent assurance to the Department on the quality and availability of health and social care in Northern Ireland, and to drive improvement in these services.