



10 December 2018

A Review of Safeguarding at Muckamore Abbey Hospital

Statement from Olive Macleod, RQIA Chief Executive

“The safeguarding failures at the Belfast Trust’s Muckamore Abbey Hospital, as described in this review, are shocking. As a nurse, I am appalled that the most vulnerable in society were subjected to such degrading and inhumane treatment by fellow nurses and health care workers.

I expect this report will get to the root cause of why this behaviour was allowed to continue, when professionals employed by the Belfast Trust, who were there on a daily basis - including doctors, psychologists, nurses, managers and support staff, as well as visitors - either did not see or did not report this behaviour.

By its very nature, the abuse described in this report was covert and appeared to happen predominately at weekends. Notably, the report also acknowledges that this abuse did not happen on days when audits were undertaken.

During the period covered by this report, each of the 55 mental health and learning disability wards across Northern Ireland were subject to annual, unannounced inspections.

Along with inspections, RQIA relies on intelligence from health care workers and members of the public to inform us about services provided. Our Duty Desk telephone number is 028 9536 1990. This is manned each day during office hours by a nurse or social worker. I wish to assure the public that where we receive information we take action.”

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