



10 October 2017

## **RQIA Takes Enforcement Action at Broadway and Bangor Ambulance Stations**

As a result of significant concerns identified during unannounced inspections at Broadway and Bangor Ambulance Stations, RQIA has taken enforcement action to drive improvements in patient safety.

Dr Lourda Geoghegan, RQIA Medical Director said: **“During unannounced infection prevention and control inspections of Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) stations in July 2017 at Broadway (Belfast) and Bangor, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) identified significant patient safety concerns. These related to the cleaning of ambulances and patient equipment; staff knowledge and practices; and the state of the station environment. We also identified concerns regarding internal monitoring and assurances of infection prevention and control at both stations.”**

RQIA’s Medical Director continued: **“In late September, RQIA conducted further unannounced inspections at Broadway and Bangor stations to assess NIAS’s progress to address our concerns. However, we found that ambulance staff were not familiar with the steps for effective infection prevention and control – including hand hygiene. We also found that the standard of cleanliness of reusable patient equipment within ambulances and at both stations was poor. Basic hygiene, cleaning and planned maintenance at Broadway and Bangor also remained unsatisfactory.”**

**“RQIA considers that governance and operational systems at both stations continue to fall below the required quality standard. As a result of our continued concerns, RQIA has issued four improvement notices to the Ambulance Service, advising improvements required to address these significant patient safety issues.”**

Dr Geoghegan concluded: **“The safety of everyone in Northern Ireland who requires an ambulance is of paramount importance to RQIA, and we have advised NIAS it must achieve compliance with quality standards by 30 October 2017.”**

**ENDS**

## **Editors' Notes**

Copies of the two Improvement Notices issued by RQIA to NIAS management in respect of Broadway Ambulance Station can be accessed at:

<https://www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/files/3c/3c209c9f-54a7-40be-aff9-46558ce0dc7d.pdf>

The two Improvement Notices issued by RQIA in respect of Bangor Ambulance Station are available at: <https://www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/files/1e/1e6c8f51-7b16-4fbb-96c9-af44cd447bb5.pdf>

## **Further information**

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