



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

press release

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Report of RQIA Publish Findings of Unannounced Inspection at Broadway Ambulance Station, Belfast

Statement from Dr Lourda Geoghegan, RQIA Medical Director

“On 5 July 2017, as part of a planned programme of inspection and improvement at the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS), RQIA conducted an unannounced infection prevention/hygiene inspection at Broadway Ambulance Station, Belfast. This was RQIA’s first inspection at an ambulance station in this programme.

During the inspection, RQIA identified significant concerns in relation to compliance with a range of infection prevention/hygiene standards that required urgent attention.

RQIA found Broadway Ambulance Station in a poor state of repair, with many of its internal fixtures and fittings needing to be replaced. The standard of cleaning was poor throughout the station, particularly in relation the ambulances and patient equipment. RQIA was concerned with the level of staff knowledge and practice in relation to infection prevention and control. The link between training, observation of practice and supervision of NIAS staff needs to be strengthened as a matter of priority.

On the day of inspection, RQIA discussed its findings with the NIAS Chief Executive and staff in Broadway Station. The following day, RQIA met with NIAS’s Chief Executive and members of its Senior Management Team, requesting urgent action to address the shortcomings identified during the inspection. RQIA considers that immediate improvement is required in governance and assurance systems at NIAS to support best practice in infection prevention and control practices across the ambulance service.”

A report of RQIA’s findings is published at:

<https://www.rqia.org.uk/inspections/view-inspections-as/map/hsc-service-nias/>.

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