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press release

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RQIA Publish Findings from Bangor Ambulance Station Unannounced Inspection

Statement from Dr Lourda Geoghegan, RQIA Medical Director

“Today, RQIA has published the findings of its unannounced infection prevention/hygiene inspection at Bangor Ambulance Station in July 2017, where we identified significant concerns in relation to infection prevention/hygiene standards assessed during our inspection.

RQIA’s inspection team found that ambulances and patient equipment were not routinely cleaned and the standard of cleaning throughout Bangor Ambulance Station, which serves the North Down area, was poor. RQIA also found that staff knowledge and practice in relation to infection prevention and control – including basic hand hygiene - fell below the required minimum standard, and this needed urgent and immediate attention.

As a result of continued concerns identified during a follow up inspection in September 2017, RQIA has taken enforcement action against the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, which is now required to address these significant patient safety issues at Bangor Ambulance Station. To ensure the safety of everyone who requires an ambulance, compliance with standards must be achieved by 30 October 2017.”

A report of RQIA’s specific findings for Bangor Ambulance Station is available at: [https://www.rqia.org.uk/inspections/view-inspections-as/map/hsc-services-nias/](https://www.rqia.org.uk/inspections/view-inspections-as/map/hsc-services/nias/).

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