

EXPERT REVIEW OF RECORDS OF DECEASED PATIENTS OF DR WATT

MINUTES OF STEERING GROUP MEETING

Held on Wednesday 08 September 2021 at 14.00 – Via Zoom Call

Members in Attendance:	Mrs Emer Hopkins	RQIA Interim Director of Improvement and Co-Chair
	Mr David Galloway	Director of MS Society and Chair of NI Neurological Charities Alliance
	Ms Jacqui McGarvey	RQIA Board Member
	Mrs Lynn Long	RQIA Interim Deputy Director of Improvement
	Mr Brian O'Hagan	IHRD Duty of Candour Work Stream and Chair of the Service User Group
Project Team Members In Attendance:	Dr Leanne Morgan	Clinical Lead
	Mr Malachy Finnegan	Communications Manager
	Mrs Linda Rafferty	Interim Project Lead
	Mr Richard Gamble	Family Liaison Team/Senior Project Support (taking notes)
Apologies:	Professor Aneez Esmail	Clinical Advisor and Co-Chair
	Professor Stuart Elborn	RQIA Board Member
	Mr David McCann	Asst. Director of Improvement

1 Welcome, Apologies & Declaration of Conflict of Interests

Mrs Hopkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted above apologies. No new declarations of conflict of interests were reported.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Steering Group held on 01/04/21

Accepted without amendment.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4 Permanent Secretary Neurology Recall Assurance Group

Mrs Hopkins and Dr Morgan provided an update in respect of the most recent meeting with the Department of Health. Colleagues were updated in full as to the progress of the review, engagement with families, work with the Royal College of Physicians and preparatory work regarding options for subsequent phases.

5 Highlight Report

Mrs Rafferty spoke to the previously circulated highlight report dated 08/09/21. The main points for noting were that during August 2021:

- Dr Watt's legal team provided RQIA with records of the patients selected for review within Phase 2 who were treated by Dr Watt in the independent sector;
- The digitisation process of all related patient records had been completed and

made available to the expert review panel;

- The expert review panel commenced the review of the records.

6 Family Involvement Plan

Mrs Rafferty spoke to the previously circulated highlight report, noting the following key points:

- 25 families chose to become involved with the Review; a series of engagement commenced in May 2021; 14 families met with the Family Liaison Team on a face-to-face basis and a further 11 families engaged via phone, zoom, post and email;
- Some of the families expressed concerns regarding the care and treatment their relative received;
- Counselling services had been made available to family members via the RQIA's contract with *Inspire Wellbeing*;
- Significant engagement continued over the summer months via telephone and email in order to keep families updated on the progress of the review; anticipated timescales for delivery of final reports and individual case summaries; and to support families to complete their family information forms to their satisfaction, in preparation for consideration by the expert review panel;
- A meeting of the Family Liaison Team (FLT) is to be arranged in order to develop a plan to provide families with feedback on the findings of the expert review, in accordance with the principles of the Ethical Framework.

7 Communications Plan

Mr Finnegan provided the following update:

- In April 2021 a dedicated [Neurology Review](#) section was added to RQIA's website;
- The website was updated on 03 September 2021, to include publication of the RQIA's update to the Committee for Health in June 2021;
- The website pages have been visited around 1,700 times to date;
- During this period RQIA responded to one NI Assembly Question referencing its wider review programme. In its response RQIA stated that the Expert Review of Records of Patients of Dr Watt who died 2008-18 was ongoing;
- Two media queries relating to this review have been received since April 2021.

Mrs Rafferty informed members that two FOI requests have been received since April 2021, both from members of the public.

8. Key Risks

No new risks identified.

9. Review Costs

No issues with current budget identified.

10. AOB

Mr Galloway indicated he has been asked for information regarding the review and requested a discussion with the chair to consider this.

11. Next Meeting

Mr Gamble to arrange the next meeting of the Steering Group in mid to late October 2021.