



Update to Committee for Health, Northern Ireland Assembly

The Expert Review of Records of Deceased Patients of Dr Watt (2008-2018)

Since RQIA's last update to the Committee on 4 November 2021, the Expert Review Panel commissioned by The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) has completed its review of records of the deceased patients of Dr Watt selected for Phase 2 of the Review. The panel also considered information shared by families of the deceased patients, following its review of the medical records.

In December 2021, the RCP provided RQIA with high-level summary feedback on its initial findings, which has been shared with the Department of Health, the Coroner's Office and the Independent Neurology Inquiry.

The RCP is currently preparing a report of its findings in relation to the 29 deceased patients whose families had made contact with RQIA following the announcement of the review. A second report covering the group of 16 patients who were included in the Belfast Trust's Cohort 1 live recall but unfortunately died before either attending or completing their re-assessment is also being prepared. In addition RCP will provide RQIA with individual cases summaries for all 45 deceased patients. It is anticipated that these reports will be provided to RQIA during April 2022.

Throughout this time RQIA's Family Liaison Team has provided families with updates on the review's progress, including anticipated timescales, and have responded to their queries in a timely manner. On receipt of the final reports from RCP, our team will contact each family to agree how they wish to receive information on the findings relating to their loved ones, should they wish to do so.

The final reports from RCP will also be shared with the Department of Health for their consideration of the findings and lessons learned, to inform its decisions on the next steps.

24 March 2022