

## **Neurology Update**

Following the recall of neurology patients in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust in May 2018, the Department of Health directed RQIA to undertake three separate reviews, which are detailed below.

In March 2020, to support the regional response to the Coronavirus pandemic, Northern Ireland's Chief Medical Officer directed RQIA to focus its activities on responding to the impact of the global pandemic and areas of greatest risk across our health and social care services. This has included a temporary cessation of RQIA's review programme.

### **The Review of Governance in Outpatients in the Belfast Trust with a Particular Focus on Neurology and Other High Volume Specialties**

This [review](#) was published in February 2020.

### **The Review of Corporate and Clinical Governance in Independent (Private) Hospitals and Hospices**

RQIA concluded its fieldwork for this review in August 2019. A report of RQIA's findings and recommendations was being finalised prior the COVID-19 pandemic. This review will be published at a time to be agreed with the Department of Health.

### **The Expert Review of records of all patients and former patients of Dr X who have deceased in the Previous 10 years**

This is a highly complex and sensitive matter and RQIA is mindful of the expectations of family members of Dr X's patients who died in the 10 year period prior to May 2018.

Due to the complexity and sensitivity, it has been important for a Legal Framework to be created under which the work is to be carried out, ensuring all parties involved have a clear understanding of the legal responsibilities. Work by RQIA to finalise this Framework had completed in February.

When the review programme is recommenced, there will be several other planning phases to be completed before any actual review of any deceased patients' records can commence. It is anticipated that due to the complexity of the matter, it will take a number of years to complete this review.

We remain hopeful that the recommencement of our review programme will be in the near future; however, the precise timing of this will be determined by the course of current Coronavirus pandemic and further direction from the Department of Health.