



3 July 2024

STATEMENT FROM RQIA

Next Steps and Future Approach to the Neurology Deceased Patients Review

RQIA welcomes Minister Nesbitt's announcement today on the next steps and future approach to the Neurology Deceased Patients Review (DPR).

RQIA will begin the planning, preparation and initiation of Phase 3 of this review process. This Phase will involve the further 18 families who have approached RQIA to confirm that they wish to proceed with an expert review of their relative's clinical records. RQIA has contacted these families to advise that the expert review process will now commence. They will be invited to provide their testimony to the Expert Review team.

It is anticipated that the findings of Phase 3 will be available in Spring 2025. Throughout this time, RQIA will continue to provide regular updates to these families as the review progresses. RQIA is mindful that this is a difficult time for them, and will ensure appropriate support arrangements are in place via RQIA's Family Liaison Team.

In addition, the Department of Health has asked any further families of deceased patients of Dr Watt who wish to explore involvement with the DPR to contact the RQIA, no later than 31 December 2024.

Families can contact RQIA's Family Liaison Team at:

- Freephone: 0800 052 0012 (10am - 5pm, Monday – Friday)
- Email: expert.review@rqia.org.uk
- Via an online form on RQIA's website

Following this process, the Department of Health and the RQIA will clarify next steps for this stage of the DPR.

ENDS

You can access the Minister of Health's written statement to the Northern Ireland Assembly: Neurology Deceased Patients Review (DPR) [here](#).