

PUBLIC SESSION

RQIA Authority Meeting

Thursday 3 July 2025 at 9:30am

Lagan Room, The Mount Business and Conference Centre

<p>Present: Christine Collins (CC), Chair Stuart Elborn (SE) Derek Clydesdale (DC) Nazia Latif (NL) Alphy Maginness (AM) Rodney Morton (RM) Sarah Wakfer (SW)</p> <p>Apologies: Cheryl Lamont (CL) Mary Mclvor (MMcl)</p> <p>Lynn Long (LL), Director of Mental Health, Learning Disability, Children’s Services and Prison Healthcare Jane Kennedy (JK), Interim Director of Independent Healthcare Karen Harvey (KH), Professional Adviser of Social Work</p>	<p>RQIA Staff in Attendance: Briege Donaghy (BD), Chief Executive Elaine Connolly (EC), Director of Adult Care Services Caroline Lee (CLee), Interim Director of HSC Reviews, Inspections and Quality Improvement Jacqui Murphy (JM), Head of Corporate Affairs and Business Services David Silcock (DS), Communications Manager Paul Cummings (PC), RQIA Financial Advisor Aaron Addidle (AA), Business Support Officer</p>
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1.0 Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The meeting commenced at 9:39 am, with the Chair (CC) welcoming all to the meeting.

CC particularly welcomed DC and RM to their first Authority Meeting and noted the Authority’s pleasure that they had joined at such a critical time for RQIA and welcomed their fresh perspective.

1.2 Apologies were noted from Cheryl Lamont, Mary Mclvor, Lynn Long, Jane Kennedy and Karen Harvey.

2.0 Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 24 April 2025 and Matters Arising

2.1 Members **APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE** the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 24 April 2025 as a true and accurate record, subject to factual accuracy

checks being completed by Save Our Acute Services (SOAS) on the relevant section of the minutes related to its deputation.

2.2 **Action List:**

Action 270: Bank of Ireland Mandate: Closed: PC reported that he and JM met with the Bank of Ireland, which fully accepted RQIA's position as a body corporate. The Bank advised that it currently does not have a form specifically for bodies corporate and so RQIA can either wait until one has been developed or amend the form for unincorporated bodies to reflect RQIA's body corporate status.

2.3 CC requested that PC and JM draft a letter on her behalf to the Bank of Ireland noting RQIA's concern that no form exists for bodies corporate and advising that the details they currently hold for RQIA are incorrect and need to be updated.

2.4 **Resolved Action 271: RQIA Financial Advisor and Head of Corporate Affairs and Business Services to draft a letter from Authority Chair to the Bank of Ireland in respect of the lack of documentation for bodies corporate and to update RQIA's details as held by the bank.**

3.0 **Agenda Item 3 - Declaration of Interests**

3.1 CC asked Authority Members if, following consideration of the agenda items, any interests were required to be declared in line with the Standing Orders.

3.2 There were no interests declared.

4.0 **Agenda Item 4 - Chair's Business: Verbal Update**

a) Appointment of new Authority Committee Members
b) Death in Service of Malachy Finnegan

4.1 **a) Appointment of new Authority Committee Members**

CC advised that DC and RM are to be appointed to Authority Committees and sought the Authority's approval.

4.2 CC nominated DC as Member of the Business, Appointments and Remuneration Committee (BARC), Legislative and Policy Committee (LPC), the Enforcement Committee and Medical Appointments Panel.

CC advised that DC would serve as Authority representative on the Executive Management Team's (EMT) Digital and Intelligence Strategic Programme Board.

4.3 SE seconded the nomination.

4.4 The Authority **APPROVED** the appointment of Derek Clydesdale as Member of BARC, LPC, the Enforcement Committee and Medical Appointments Panel.

The Authority **NOTED** the appointment of Derek Clydesdale as Authority representative on the Executive Management Team's (EMT) Digital and Intelligence Strategic Programme Board.

4.5 CC nominated RM as Member of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC), Mental Health Committee (MHC), the Enforcement Committee and Medical Appointments Panel.

CC advised that RM would serve as an Authority representative on the Executive Management Team's (EMT) Framework for Regulation Oversight Group.

4.6 SW seconded the nomination.

4.7 The Authority **APPROVED** the appointment of Rodney Morton as Member of ARAC, MHC, the Enforcement Committee and Medical Appointments Panel.

The Authority **NOTED** the appointment of Rodney Morton as an Authority representative on the Executive Management Team's (EMT) Framework for Regulation Oversight Group.

4.8 **b) Death in Service of Malachy Finnegan**

CC expressed the Authority's deep sorrow at the recent passing of Malachy Finnegan, lately Senior Communications Manager. CC noted that Malachy worked unstintingly with considerable acumen to support all levels of RQIA for nearly two decades.

CC, on behalf of the Authority, expressed her deepest condolences to Malachy's family, friends and colleagues.

A moments silence was held to remember Malachy.

5.0 **Agenda Item 5 – Annual Report and Accounts 2024 / 2025 (EP1: Governance)**

5.1 Prior to Authority consideration, JM advised Members that since the Annual Report and Accounts was presented to BARC and ARAC there have been no material changes to the document. There have been some insignificant amendments, including:

- A reflection on the passing of Malachy Finnegan in the Chair's Foreword;
- Addition of the definition of Health and Social Care Quality Improvement (HSCQI) in the Chair's foreword;
- Additional text highlighting the treatment of James House as a lease under IFRS16; and
- An update to the Governance Statement reflecting that, since the dissolution of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), RQIA has not undertaken any regulatory activity in services now commissioned by the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) of the DoH.

JM advised that at the ARAC Meeting on 26 June 2025, the draft Report to Those Charged with Governance (RTTCWG) was presented, noting an unqualified audit opinion without modification. There were two Priority three recommendations in relation to annual leave accrual and assets with a nil net book value.

JM concluded by advising the Authority that there have been no subsequent events that would require adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.

5.2 The Chair of BARC, SE, presented the Annual Report to the Authority. SE noted that BARC reviewed the Annual Report at its meeting on 19 June 2025 and highly commended its content. BARC agreed that the report is well presented and

made particular reference to the infographics at the beginning of the report, which are most helpful. SE noted that Annual Reports are significant pieces of work and content is being written every day by frontline staff in addition to carrying out their day-to-day duties. SE paid tribute to all RQIA staff for their hard work and excellent performance in 2024/2025, under demanding circumstances.

- 5.3 SE, on behalf of BARC, recommended the Annual Report 2024/2025 to the Authority for its approval.
- 5.4 The Authority **APPROVED** the Annual Report 2024/2025.
- 5.5 The Chair of ARAC, SW, presented the Annual Accounts 2024/2025. SW advised that the accounts were considered at the ARAC meeting on 26 June 2025 and there were no issues of concern. SW paid tribute to all staff for their contributions to the Annual Report and Accounts.
- 5.6 SW, on behalf of ARAC, recommended the Annual Accounts 2024/2025 to the Authority for its approval.
- 5.7 The Authority **APPROVED** the Annual Accounts 2024/2025.
- 5.8 DS advised the Authority that the Annual Report and Accounts will now be signed electronically by the Authority Chair and Chief Executive and submitted to the Department of Health (DoH), who will lay the report in the Assembly on behalf of RQIA.

6.0 Agenda Item 6 – Any Other Business

- 6.1 The Authority considered how the Annual Report and Accounts is publicised as well as how RQIA communicates with the public throughout the year. The Authority considered how it could link with other organisations and the Northern Ireland Health Confederation (NICON).
- 6.2 BD highlighted that it might be helpful to include this when RQIA is in a position to consider its Publication Scheme, including Frequently Asked Freedom of Information Requests, etc. RQIA will need to determine what information should be published on a regular basis and information from the Annual Report and Accounts will be included in that consideration.
- 6.3 NL noted the need to publicise information on what RQIA does not regulate, as well as those which it does regulate given the increase in services being offered by the independent sector in Northern Ireland; people need to be better informed when they are using a service that is not regulated. CC commented this could also apply to HSC services, eg RQIA's current very limited role in respect of SAI's

There being no further business, CC closed the public meeting at 10:03 am.

Date of Next Meeting:

Full Authority Meeting: Thursday 28 August 2025 at 9:30 am, Virtual via MS Teams.

Signed


Christine Collins

**Christine Collins MBE
Chair**



Date

28 August 2025

Authority Action List: Meeting of 3 July 2025

Action Number	Authority Meeting	Agreed Action	Responsible Person	Date due for Completion	Status
271	3 July 2025	RQIA Financial Advisor and Head of Corporate Affairs and Business Services to draft a letter from Authority Chair to the Bank of Ireland in respect of the lack of documentation for bodies corporate and to update RQIA's details as held by the bank.	RQIA Financial Advisor and Head of Corporate Affairs and Business Services	28 August 2025	

Key

Behind Schedule	
In Progress	
Completed or ahead of Schedule	