



19 July 2021

## RQIA Response to The Nicholl Report

The Authority welcomes the Minister's Statement and publication of the Nicholl Report, today. Of the many recommendations of the report, those that are within the Authority's control will be taken forward, as rapidly as possible.

Christine Collins, the Interim Chair, said:

“Since appointment by The Minister in Autumn 2020, the Authority has been committed to working closely with the Minister, Departmental Officials and other partner organisations to make sure that health and social care services in Northern Ireland are safe, effective, and of a high quality. RQIA's independence and expertise are fundamental to success in this essential work.

The Authority and RQIA's senior staff appreciate the support provided by the Minister and Departmental officials during this unprecedented period.

The RQIA's priority is always to safeguard patients and service users, especially as COVID and other pressures on HSC systems increase. RQIA's objectives, as agreed with the Department, set out what we are aiming to achieve. We are grateful for and acknowledge, the dedication and effort of our staff, who continue to place service users at the centre of our work.”

**ENDS**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. The definition of “the Authority” is the governing body of RQIA, commonly referred to as a Board and is set out in The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, Schedule 1, part 4 (Membership) which states “The Regulation and Improvement Authority shall consist of a chairman and other members appointed by the Department.”