



The **Regulation** and  
**Quality Improvement**  
**Authority**

22 May 2009

Dear Consultee,

### **RQIA'S DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGY 2009-2012 - CONSULTATION**

I am writing to obtain your views on the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority's (RQIA) draft Corporate Strategy 2009-2012.

RQIA is the independent, non-departmental public body which monitors and inspects the quality and availability of health and social care services in Northern Ireland. From 1 April 2009, RQIA assumed responsibility for the delivery of a range of functions for people with mental ill health or a learning disability, which were formerly carried out by the Mental Health Commission.

RQIA's draft strategy has been developed in consultation with stakeholders and guidance from our Board and staff. We are committed to continuing to engage with service users and carers, service providers and public representatives about the quality and safety of health and social care services in Northern Ireland.

I enclose a consultation response pro-forma to help you set out your views. If you have any questions about this consultation exercise, or if you would like to request paper copies or alternative formats or languages, or if you would like to meet someone to discuss the draft Corporate Strategy, please contact Maurice Atkinson, RQIA's Director of Corporate Services on tel: (028) 9051 7480 or by email at [consultation@rqia.org.uk](mailto:consultation@rqia.org.uk).

The draft Corporate Strategy consultation document and response pro-forma are also available online at <http://www.rqia.org.uk/home/index.cfm>.

I look forward to receiving your response which should be returned to RQIA by **Friday 14 August 2009**.

Yours sincerely

**Glenn Houston**  
**Chief Executive**

**CONSULTATION ON DRAFT RQIA CORPORATE STRATEGY  
RESPONSE DOCUMENT**

**Before responding to this consultation please take note of the Freedom of Information requirements in Appendix 2 at the end of this document.**

**Responses should be sent to:**

Mr Maurice Atkinson  
Director of Corporate Services  
The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority  
9th Floor  
Riverside Tower  
5 Lanyon Place  
Belfast  
BT1 3BT

Tel: 028 9051 7480

Fax: 028 9051 7501

E-mail: [consultation@rqia.org.uk](mailto:consultation@rqia.org.uk)

**Please reply by Friday 14 August 2009.**

**Please tick**

**I am responding on behalf of an individual:**

**I am responding on behalf of an organisation:**

**Name (Print):**

**Job Title:**

**Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Date:**

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

**Q1: Do you agree with the overall strategic direction for RQIA as presented in the Value Creation Map (Appendix 1 and Section 5, "*Delivering Value to Our Stakeholders*", page x)?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Please comment below:**

**Q2: RQIA has identified four "core activities" (CA1 - CA4) which are critical to the success of the organisation and the delivery of the strategy.**

**Do you have any suggestions or comments as to how we could improve our effectiveness in each of these areas?**

**CA1: *Improving Care:*** *we encourage and promote improvements in the safety and quality of services through the regulation and review of health and social care*

**Please comment below:**

**CA2: *Informing the Population:*** *we publicly report on the safety, quality and availability of health and social care*

**Please comment below:**

**CA3: *Safeguarding Rights***: we act to protect the rights of all vulnerable people using health and social services

**Please comment below:**

**CA4: *Influencing Policy***: we influence policy and standards in health and social care

**Please comment below:**

**Q3: RQIA is developing a programme of focussed reviews to take place over the next 3 years.**

**What are the top 3 areas for review that RQIA should prioritise and why?**

**Please comment below:**

**Q4: Is there any specific area of our work which you require information on, and how would you like this information to be made available?**

**Q5: Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to make in relation to RQIA's Corporate Strategy?**

## **Human Rights and Equality Implications**

### **1.1 Northern Ireland Act 1998**

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 there is a legal requirement for RQIA to consider the possible impact of all its decisions on the specified equality groups and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations in all areas of our work.

RQIA has to consider how to promote equality of opportunity in relation to the following nine equality groups:

- religious belief
- sexual orientation
- political opinion
- gender
- racial group
- disability (those with a disability and those without)
- age
- dependency (those with dependants and those without)
- marital status.

RQIA must also consider how to promote good relations in respect of:

- religious belief
- political opinion
- racial group.

### **1.2 The Human Rights Act 1998**

The Human Rights Act 1998 gives legal status in UK law to fundamental human rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The Act is about respecting and fostering the Convention Rights in everything we do. Public bodies now have a statutory duty to ensure that their decisions and actions are compatible with ECHR and to act in accordance with these rights. What is more, we need to be proactive in ensuring that we comply with our obligations and ensure that we develop a human rights culture. The Act gives people a right to redress in a UK court if they think that their human rights have been violated by a public authority.

### **1.3 Disability Discrimination Act (1995) (DDA)**

Under the most recent amendment of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, that came into effect in January 2007, public authorities, in all areas of their work must now consider how to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

## 1.4 Equality Screening Exercise

As part of the development of the Corporate Strategy an Equality Screening Exercise was carried out. This exercise indicated that this strategy will have an impact on a number of the nine Section 75 equality categories.

Given that this is a regional strategy aimed at the general public as well as identifying a range of diverse stakeholders, the information used to inform the screening exercise was based on evidence gathered from a range of published sources and the professional knowledge of RQIA staff.

The initial Equality Screening indicated that the following categories have specific needs in relation to RQIA's Corporate Strategy:

- Age
- Disability
- Ethnicity

To meet the needs of these section 75 groups we have included a number of strategic objectives and initiatives in the corporate strategy. These objectives and initiatives are intended to mitigate against any identified differential impacts as well as potential equality issues that may arise.

We would be grateful if you could take some time to answer the questions below.

**Q6: Do the strategic objectives and initiatives outlined in CA1.1, CA1.2, CA2.1, CA3.1, CA3.2, D1.1, D1.2, D3.1 and D5.1 adequately meet the needs of section 75 groups for the purposes RQIA's draft Corporate Strategy?**

**Yes**

**No**

**If "No", please comment below:**

**Q7: Are there any additional measures that RQIA can take to meet the needs of Section 75 categories?**

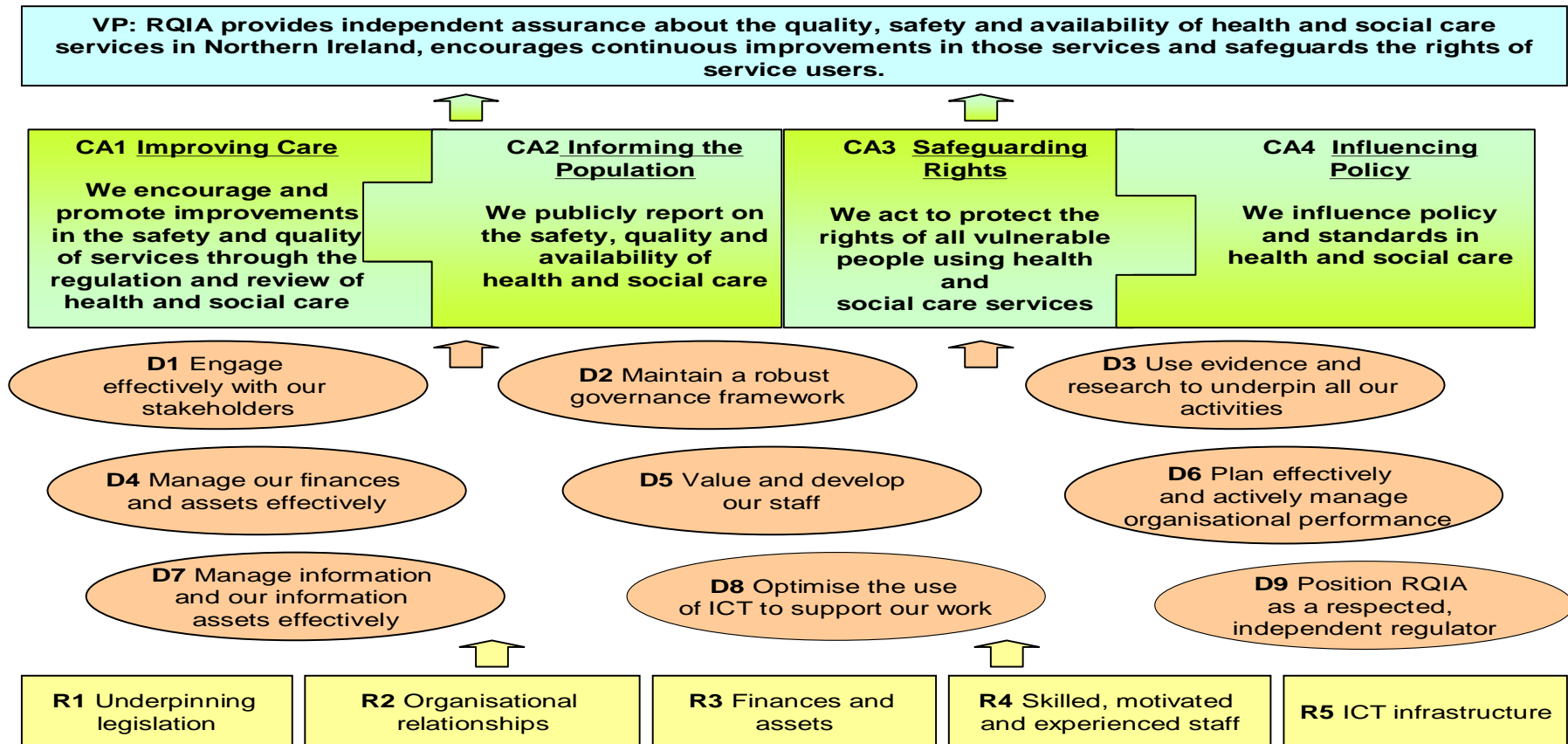
**Yes**

**No**

**If "Yes", please comment below:**

Appendix 1

Figure 1 - RQIA 'Value Creation Map'



**Key**

VP = Value Proposition

CA = Core Activities

D = Value Drivers

R = Resources

## Appendix 2

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. RQIA can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, RQIA in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. RQIA cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation.

However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs' Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- RQIA should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- RQIA should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- acceptance by RQIA of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office at:

#### **Information Commissioner's Office Northern Ireland**

51 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8FE

**Tel:** 028 9026 9380

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