



Royal College of Psychiatrists in Northern Ireland (RCPsychiNI)
Response to:
DoF Consultation on the Draft Budget 2026-2029/30

1.0 Introduction about RCPsychiNI:

The Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) is the statutory body responsible for the supervision of the training and accreditation of Psychiatrists in the UK and for providing guidelines and advice regarding the treatment, care, and prevention of mental and behavioural disorders. Among its principal aims are to improve the outcomes for those with mental illness and to improve the mental health of individuals, families and communities.

The College has approximately 450 Members in Northern Ireland (including Doctors in training) who provide the backbone of the local Psychiatric service, offering acute and community treatment, as well as specialist care and consultation across a large range of settings.

This response is submitted on behalf of the Devolved Council of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Northern Ireland (RCPsychiNI).

2.0 Comments:

We welcome the proposed development of a multi-year budget.

We agree that there has been an ongoing underinvestment in public services in Northern Ireland – which has been particularly acute for mental health services.

Funding for mental health services in Northern Ireland per capita is lower than the countries within the United Kingdom and lower than in the Republic of Ireland.

In addition, the development of the [Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031](#) and [Mental Health Services Workforce Review 2022 -2032](#) and [Medical Workforce Plan for Psychiatric Specialties 2022 – 2031](#) has been seriously underfunded in each case and as a consequence none are going to achieve the fulfilment of their original aims.

This will be further compounded by the expected future finance pressures on the Health budget.

Priority needs to be given to Mental Health Service funding in order to address the above.

We very much welcome the inclusion of the capital funding for the planned Mother and Baby Unit.

However, we would seek confirmation on budget for the resourcing of this planned facility and service.

Dated: 2nd March 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Anderson', followed by a period.

**Dr Julie Anderson Chair RCPsychiNI & Vice President RCPsych
- on behalf of RCPsychiNI**

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