

Katherine Ferguson
Head of MHPS Review



To: Medical Royal Colleges

By e-mail only

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Dear Colleague

The Department of Health has commissioned a review into Maintaining High Professional Standards in the Modern HPSS: A framework for the handling of concerns about doctors and dentists in the HPSS. The framework has been in place from 1 December 2005 and remains in force.

An external independent Review Panel has been established to carry out a review of the Framework. The panel brings expertise from operational experiences of the MHPS Framework, Medical leadership and governance and employment law. To inform its work, the panel is seeking background information on the practical operation of the framework.

During the course of the review, the panel is engaging with a range of stakeholder groups and wants to gain the perspective of Medical Royal Colleges. It would like to hear if your organisation has any thoughts and views on the MHPS framework as a whole and its operation in practice.

If you wish to contribute to this review, I am writing to invite you to submit your organisation's views on the following issues:

1. Please advise as to the extent of involvement your organisation has had with MHPS cases since 2017.

2. Do you feel there is a need to have a Northern Ireland Framework for managing concerns that sits in addition to and alongside local Trust policies and procedures?
3. What are the issues (as perceived by your organisation) with the current MHPS process(es)?
4. How might they be improved?

Please note the NI Framework differs from the MHPS framework used in England, a copy of the NI Framework has been shared with this letter for your ease of reference. That said, as the frameworks are broadly similar, experience of the relevant framework as it operates in England will still inform the review.

Following this phase of information gathering, the Review Panel may consider seeking further information from your organisation and if this is the case, the Project Team will contact you to make the appropriate arrangements.

If you could please submit your organisational views for consideration to the project team by Friday 1st December. The Project Team can be contacted via email on the following address: mhpsreview@health-ni.gov.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving valuable insight into the current MHPS process.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Ferguson

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