



Police Service of Northern Ireland

Office of the Chief Constable
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Our Ref: Com Sec 8810-21
Your Ref: C220/21

Mr K McBride
Clerk, Committee for Health
Room 410, Parliament Buildings
Stormont

27 August 2021

Dear Mr McBride,

Thank you for your letter of 19th July 2021 to the Chief Constable. I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

Thank you for bringing the concerns of the Chief Executives to our attention. We are aware of a number of protests which have directly impacted on Trust properties, staff and their patients. This has been particularly prevalent in Newry and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon districts.

As you rightly articulate in your letter, those wishing to protest have a right to do so in a peaceful manner. We respond to all such reports and have been engaging with both Trust staff and those engaging in protest. I am aware that C/Inspector O'Connor has attended some of the protests in Portadown and engaged directly with staff.

Senior officers have formed effective working relationships with Officials in the Department of Health to ensure that protest activity did not impact on the vaccination programme and I am happy to report that it did not.

I know that engagement occurs at all levels across our Districts and through a number of fora which the Trust Chief Executives attend. I have asked that relevant senior officers make contact



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with the respective Trust Chief Executives to better understand any specific concerns that they may have.

I am copying this reply to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McCaughan'.

JOHN McCAUGHAN

Superintendent
for Chief Constable



Committee for Health

Mr Simon Byrne
Chief Constable
Police Service of Northern Ireland

c/o Acting Staff Office to Chief Constable

By email: robert.singleton@psni.pnn.police.uk

Our Ref: C220/21

19 July 2021

Dear Chief Constable,

At the Committee for Health meeting on 8 July, the Committee heard from the Chief Executives of the Health and Social Care Trusts in relation to protests at premises providing reproductive healthcare and other services.

The Committee was concerned by evidence from the Chief Executives in relation to these protests, including a number of reports made by the Trusts to the PSNI, and the use of Trust resources to improve security at these premises.

The Committee upholds the right to peaceful protest, and recognises that there are strongly held views on the issue.

However, the Committee agreed to write to you, to draw your attention to the Committee's concerns, and to ask for information on how the PSNI are working with the Trusts on this matter.

I would appreciate a response by 02 August 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Keith McBride,
Clerk, Committee for Health

CC Amanda Stewart, Chair, Northern Ireland Policing Board
Linda Price, Northern Ireland Policing Board