



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Committee for Health

### Minutes of Proceedings

**27 January 2026**

**Meeting Location:** Room 21, Parliament Buildings

**Present:**

Phillip McGuigan MLA (Chairperson)

Danny Donnelly MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Alan Chambers MLA

Linda Dillon MLA.

Colin McGrath MLA

Alan Robinson MLA.

**Apologies:**

Diane Dodds MLA

Orlaithi Flynn MLA

Nuala McAllister MLA

**In Attendance:** Keith McBride, Clerk  
Shannen Lofthouse, Assistant Clerk  
Angela McParland, Assistant Clerk  
Jonathan Lamont, Clerical Supervisor  
Caroline Devlin, Clerical Officer

The meeting commenced at 10.01am in public session.

## **1. Apologies**

Diane Dodds MLA

Orlaithi Flynn MLA

Nuala McAllister MLA

## **2. Oral Briefing from Independent Healthcare Providers - Community Care and Patient Flow in Hospitals.**

The following representatives joined the meeting at 10.01am.

- Ms Pauline Shepherd, Chief Executive, Independent Health and Care Providers; and
- Mr Ryan Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Connected Health; and
- Ms Joanne Neill, Executive Director, Bryson Care; and
- Ms Carol Cousins, Strategic Director, Healthcare Ireland.

The representatives briefed the Committee on community care and patient flow in hospitals.

*Alan Robinson MLA joined the meeting at 10.07am.*

*Alan Chambers MLA joined the meeting at 10.15am.*

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their briefing.

Danny Donnelly MLA declared an interest as a nurse working for the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

*Colin McGrath MLA left the meeting at 10.30am.*

*Linda Dillon MLA left the meeting at 10.55am.*

### **3. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **4. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place in Room 29 at 2.00pm on 29 January.

*The meeting was adjourned at 10.56am.*

**Phillip McGuigan MLA**

**Chairperson, Committee for Health**

**5 February 2026**