

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnystrie O Poustie

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Dear 

Thank you for the e-mail to the Adult Protection Bill Team of 13 February 2026 requesting additional information following the Committee session on 12 of February 2026.

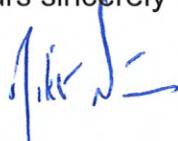
As the Committee has set out specific dates for response in advance of upcoming meetings, the Department will provide the information in separate responses, aligned with the Committee's timetable.

Please find attached the response to the queries relating to:

1. A breakdown of the estimated first-year salary figure (£396,296) for the Adult Protection Board, including remuneration for the Chair and Independent members, together with confirmation that members attending as part of their existing organisational responsibilities under Clause 30 (3) will not be remunerated.
2. A final high-level list of Clauses the Department is planning to bring amendments to and what these amendments are intended to do.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Mike Nesbitt MLA
Minister of Health

Adult Protection Bill – Addition Information requested by Committee of Health

- 1. A breakdown of the estimated Adult Protection Board first year salary figure of £396,296 from the draft implementation plan, to show what the Chair and individual members will be paid. Also, confirmation those who are members of the Board as part of their job responsibilities from the organisations set out at Clause 30(3) will not be remunerated.**

The £396,296 figure is an estimate of the overall running costs for year 1 of the Adult Protection Board covering salary costs, accommodation and other costs. This includes an estimate of £60k for salary costs for the Chair. No additional costs for Board members from the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-Being, the Northern Ireland Social Care Council, the Patient and Client Council, HSC Trusts, or the Chief Constable have been captured because board members from organisations listed at Clause 30(3) will not be remunerated as membership and attendance of meetings would be part of their duties within their respective employers. This also reflects the position with the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI), who have representatives from statutory organisations on their Board who are not remunerated.

Clause 30(2) c states at least 2 but not more than 4 other persons shall be appointed to the Board who are not members of the organisations listed above, and who are not appointed by the Department in activities related to the protection of adults at risk. Costings for these members have not been captured in the SOC, and further refinement of the costs in the business case will be necessary. Ultimately the remuneration of the Chair and Non-Executive Members of Arm's Length Bodies is outlined in the annual Payment of Remuneration of Chairs and Non-Executive Members Determination (Northern Ireland) Circular issued by the Department, this is uplifted every year based on the DoF Finance Directors letter. The terms and conditions of the Chair and Board members will have to be agreed with Public Appointments Unit, and Department of Health Finance ahead of establishing the Board and recruitment for the posts.

Adult Protection Board for Northern Ireland

Breakdown of costs

Description	Detail	Note	Cost for Year 1 2024/25
Salaries (Salaries uplifted by 3.5% from Year 2024/25 onwards)	2x Admin Support (Band 3) x 1.0 FTE (£30,000 Each)		60,000.00
	Admin/Office Manager (Band 4/5) x 1.0 FTE		40,000.00
	Protection Lead (Band 8B) x 1.0 FTE		75,000.00
	Working Advisor (Band 8A) x 1.0 FTE		63,000.00
	Chair of Adult Protection Board for NI (Senior Level) x 0.5 FTE		60,000.00
Accommodation (costs uplifted by 3% from Year 2024/25 onwards)	Rent	Accommodation costs provided by DoF based on 12 workstations with shared meeting facilities (model is Goodwood House)	23,224.00
	Rates		7,214.00
	Service Charge (inc. gas/electric)		12,858.00
	Cleaning/Security		5,000.00
Other Costs (costs uplifted by 3% from Year 2024/25 onwards)	Additional Annual Costs i.e. Travel, Venue Hire, Public Events		30,000.00
	CVS/User Engagement/Related Costs		20,000.00
Total			396,296.00

2. In advance of next week's meeting on Thursday February 19 a final high-level list of the Clauses the Department is planning to bring amendments to and what these amendments are intended to do.

The Department and Adult Safeguarding Transformation Board have considered a range of potential amendments to the Bill following engagement with stakeholders or as a result of issues raised in evidence to the Committee for Health on the Bill. The amendments outlined below have been approved by the Adult Safeguarding Transformation Board and supported by legal advice. It should however be noted that there are ongoing discussions with the Northern Ireland Prison Service, Department of Justice, and the Department of Education on some of proposed amendments around the potential of including

educational bodies and prisons within the scope of Clause 4, so there may be still further changes brought forward.

The current proposed amendments are:

Clause 4 - Naming Professions

- Legal advice had stated that reference to the relevant pieces of legislation that cover all the medical professions regulated by law in Northern Ireland can be added to Clause 4. This will reduce the need for an unwieldy list of professions at Clause 4 and ensure the legislation does not require amendment at a later date.

The legislation to be referenced is:

- Medical Act 1983;
 - Dentists Act 1984;
 - Opticians Act 1989;
 - Osteopaths Act 1993;
 - Chiropractors Act 1994;
 - Pharmacy (NI) Order 197;
 - Nursery and Midwifery Order 2001;
 - Health Professions Order 2001;
 - Anaesthesia Associates and Physician Associates Order 2024
- All social workers and social work practitioners can be covered by reference to section 3 of the Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.
 - Unregulated professionals will be included in Statutory Guidance rather than Clause 4 (similar to Scotland) with direction that it is best practice for 'all health and care professionals' to report to the Trusts.

Removal of Clause 4(1)(g) and Clause 4(1)(h)

Due to the changes referenced above in relation to referencing the relevant pieces of legislation that cover all the medical professions regulated by law in Northern Ireland OLC

advised that the two sections of the Clause detailed above are now unnecessary, and so it is intended to submit an amendment to remove them.

Proposed amendment regarding The Northern Ireland Prison Service

Proposed amendment to exclude prisoners from Assessment Orders (Clause 10), and Removal Orders (Clause 11). The rationale for this exclusion is that it would not make sense for these powers to be used in prison settings, and thus the Bill should make explicit that prisoners are excluded from these elements.

Clause 22 (2) – Guidance

Officials provided an update on Bill to the Committee on 12 February. One of the requests made by the Committee was to add a specific timeframe around the review of Statutory Guidance. Clause 22 (2) currently states “The Department must review the guidance **from time to time** and may, following such a review, revise it”. The proposed amendment to Clause 22 (2) would remove “ **from time to time**” and add a requirement for the Department to review “**at intervals not exceeding 4 years**”.

Clause 30(3)(C) - Establishment of the Board

- Following a request from PCC, an amendment will be submitted to remove them from membership of the Adult Protection Board at Clause 30 (3) (C).

Clause 32 - Serious Case Reviews (SCRs)

- the provision of independent advocates in relation to Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) will be added to the Bill.
- further detail around SCRs generally will be included in the Bill, setting out minimum procedural standards for serious case reviews, including requirements for independence, timeliness, public scrutiny, and involvement of the next-of-kin. This would be in accordance with the Bill’s principles, and with Article 2 of the ECHR.
- The name of Serious Case Reviews will be changed to **Adult Protection Learning Reviews**. The name change will better reflect the focus on learning from the cases being examined rather than governance or accountability, which is not the purpose of the Reviews.

Clause 47A – Restrictions on disclosure of information under section 46

Following engagement with the Director of Family and Children's Policy, the Bill Team was advised that an issue has arisen on the adult side, which has led to a need to update the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 (SVGO).

An omission in the SVGO means the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI), although already eligible for enhanced AccessNI with a children's barred-list check, is not listed for the adults' barred list, despite routinely inspecting settings where adults up to age 25 may be present. There is therefore a need to close the eligibility gap. Legal advice from DSO confirms this correction requires primary legislation. As this relates to safeguarding of adults, it is proposed to make the necessary change via the Adult Protection Bill and a new Clause 47A will be drafted accordingly.

It should be noted that the Bill Team awaits confirmation from the Director of Family and Children's Policy that this amendment should be included. It has been included in this list of amendments for the sake of completeness, but final confirmation will be provided when the final text of amendments is sent to the Committee.