

Royal College of Psychiatrists in NI (RCPsychiNI) Response to:
NI Assembly Committee for Health
Call for Evidence – Adult Protection Bill

1.0 Introduction about RCPsych in NI:

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.

2.0 General Comments

This is a very high-level Bill. It does not seem to address the points we made in our 8th April 2021 Consultation Response to the DoH Adult Safeguarding Unit in relation to mental capacity, serious harm etc - but maybe that will come in associated Guides etc? Clarity on this would be essential.

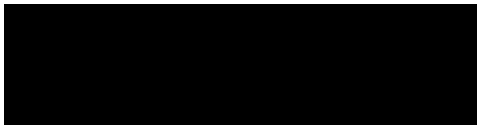
We are concerned about section 8(1) “Where a social worker has reasonable cause to suspect an individual to be an adult at risk, the social worker may require any person holding health, financial or other records relating to that individual to give the records, or copies of them, to the social worker.” In child protection concerns, we would never release an entire record to an individual social worker. We would share

relevant information and provide reports for specific child protection proceedings. An entire record would only be released at the request of the Courts. This section would need scrutiny.

A lot of guidance will be needed about the role of the medical examiner – but this is more relevant to GPs and Physicians, than to our Members.

Finally, we would ask: In terms of Part 4 section 44(2) on CCTV, what will be the status of body worn cameras?

Dated: 26th September 2025



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

