



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

Mike Farrar  
Interim Permanent Secretary/  
Accounting Officer  
Department of Health

Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
BELFAST  
BT4 3XX  
Tel: (028) 9052 1208  
Email:  
[Committee.publicaccounts@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:Committee.publicaccounts@niassembly.gov.uk)

20 June 2025

Dear Mike,

**MEMORANDUM OF REPLY: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Thank you for providing a further update on several areas of concern as outlined in the committee's correspondence on 16 May 2025.

The committee considered this at yesterday's meeting and have requested further clarification on the following to be included in the next quarterly update in August:

- The status, timeline, and scope of the planned public consultation under Recommendation 8;
- Confirmed timescales, responsible leads, and mitigation plans for the evaluation of pilot crisis services under Recommendation 10; and
- Key outcomes and actions arising from the April 2025 working group meeting under Recommendation 12, including indicative timelines for deliverables.
- Confirmation that the delays to the Encompass and MyCare roll-out

have been resolved and MyCare is now fully operational across all Trust Areas.

The Committee are concerned that staff shortages continue to impact on the collection and processing of data which is key to resolving a number of the issues raised by the report into Mental Health Services in Northern Ireland.

- Can you please confirm what action is being taken to address these ongoing issues?

It is anticipated that once the next quarterly update has been received in August and the committee are satisfied, the next update will be at 12 months' time.

Yours sincerely,

*Cheryl Brownlee*

**Cheryl Brownlee  
Chairperson  
Public Accounts Committee**