

**VIA EMAIL**

Daniel McCrossan MLA  
Chairperson  
Public Accounts Committee  
Room 344, Parliament Buildings  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

**Ref: 26-MO-CQ-023**

25 February 2026

Dear Daniel

**Re: “A System At A Crossroads”: NICCY Mental Health Research Report  
Publication**

As you will be aware, in 2018 my office published ‘Still Waiting’ which was the culmination of a Rights Based Review of Mental Health Services and Support for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland (NI). Further to this, we published a number of monitoring reports on the implementation of the recommendations made in the ‘Still Waiting’ review and engaging with all relevant agencies to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people.<sup>1</sup>

My office has now published a periodic review of an assessment of the strategic design and delivery of children’s mental health services in NI. “A System At A Crossroads: An Assessment of the Strategic Design and Delivery of Children’s Mental Health Services Through a Child’s Rights-based Approach” included the assessment of progress made in delivery of previous recommendations produced by NICCY as well as the operation of CAMHS, and the delivery of Actions 10-13 of the Mental Health Strategy to date.

The report outlines a recognition of trends in children and young people’s mental health, which is a clear basis for action grounded in children’s rights, directed towards practical improvement. Our report therefore presents 31 recommendations to government, which I believe can support the transformation of children and young people’s mental health services.

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<sup>1</sup> See NICCY. “Still Waiting Implementation Structures” at “Mental Health Review – Still Waiting” [online] at: [Mental Health Review - Still Waiting - Niccy](#) and NICCY. (2018). “Still Waiting: A Rights Based Review Based Review of Mental Health Services and Support for Children and Young People in NI”.

This document and any attachments are intended for the addressee only.

**Chris Quinn**  
Commissioner

**Northern Ireland  
Commissioner  
for Children and  
Young People**

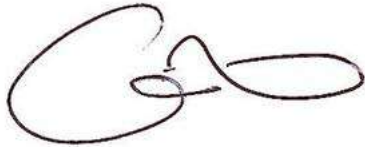
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As such, I am formally sharing this report with the Public Accounts Committee, given your previous interest in this area, and considering your report published on mental health services in NI from 2024.

I trust that you and the Committee will find this useful.

Yours sincerely,



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**Chris Quinn**  
**Commissioner**

*Encs. Copy – Report, “A System At A Crossroads: An Assessment of the Strategic Design and Delivery of Children’s Mental Health Services through a Child’s Rights-Based Approach.”; Copy - Report Appendices, “Appendix 1: Review of the Still Waiting Action Plan, February 2023 – February 2025; Appendix 2: Review of CAMHS Data, 2021 -2024; Appendix 3: Review of the Mental Health Strategy March 2025 ; Appendix 4: Review of the Delivering Together Strategy February 2026”.*

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**Chris Quinn**  
Commissioner

**Northern Ireland  
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Please click below link to access Mental Health Research report published by NICCY:

**[A System at a Crossroads: An Assessment of the Strategic Design and Delivery of Children's Mental Health Services Through a Child's Rights-based Approach](#)**