

**From:** Theresa Nixon [mailto:Theresa.Nixon@rqia.org.uk]

**Sent:** 30 October 2015 16:37

**To:** Farrell, Elaine

**Cc:** Fergal.bradley@dhssps.gov.uk; Donna.ruddy@dhsspsni.gov.uk; Glenn Houston; Malachy Finnegan; Hayley Barrett; Patrick Convery; Nicola Lewis

**Subject:** Response to e mail to Hayley Barrett(RQIA) dated 30 October 2015 regarding admission of young people under 18 to adult wards

Dear Elaine,

Further to your email dated 30 October 2015 to Hayley Barrett, RQIA, I write to provide further clarification as you requested regarding the number of admissions of young people to adult psychiatric wards in 2014 / 2015 .

I can as requested clarify the wording quoted in my letter dated 23 October 2015 to Dr Aiken. By 'young people' I was referring to children under the age of 18 years at time of admission (Under 18's), and by 'last year' I was referring to the period of time between 01 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 (2014/15).

In your email you state that there are differences in the figures stated by DHSSPS to those provided to RQIA for the 2014/2015 year in respect of the age of young people compulsorily admitted to adult psychiatric wards .RQIA notes that the figures provided by DHSSPS indicate one admission of a young person under the age of 16 to an adult psychiatric ward.

I can confirm that in 2014/2015 RQIA received notification from both the Northern and Western Trust of an admission in their trust area, of a young person aged 15 years to an adult ward. Both these young people were detained under the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 .

I attach in Appendix 1, a breakdown providing a comparison between RQIA and DHSSPS figures for young people detained in adult psychiatric wards in 2014/15. I also attach in Appendix 2, a breakdown of information requested by the DHSSPS on behalf of the committee in their email dated 20 October 2015 in respect of the number of detained young people on adult wards, length of stay on ward, and the reason provided to RQIA by the trust as to why they admitted a young person to an adult ward instead of a children's ward in 2014/2015.

I can confirm also that all of the information we hold in regard to the admissions of the 22 young people to adult psychiatric wards in 2014/15 was provided to RQIA by the five trusts in accordance with the guidance issued by DHSSPS, and treated as a untoward incident. RQIA can also confirm that in nine of these 22 admissions, RQIA received copies of the prescribed forms in accordance with the statutory requirements of trusts under the Mental Health Order (Northern Ireland) 1986.

The attached appendices are password protected. To obtain this password please contact me or Nicola Lewis in my absence on 028 92517569 . Nicola compiles all this information directly from the prescribed forms sent to RQIA and other correspondence received from trusts regarding admissions of children to adult wards.

Should you have any further queries regarding this matter please contact me directly or Nicola Lewis in my absence as I will be at meeting in Edinburgh on Monday, 2 November 2015 and Tuesday, 3 November 2015.

Yours sincerely  
Theresa Nixon

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Appendix 1

Breakdown and Comparison of RQIA and DHSSPS figures for detained young people to adult psychiatric wards in 2014/15

Breakdown of all U18s admitted to adult wards by Trust (Compulsorily detained and voluntary)

Department Figures		RQIA Figures	
Belfast	2	Belfast	3*
Northern	5	Northern	5
South Eastern	1	South Eastern	1
Southern	5	Southern	5
Western	8	Western	8

\* The difference in the figures might be explained by the fact that the Belfast Trust failed to notify RQIA of an admission of one young person aged 17 who was admitted as a voluntary patient to Knockbracken Healthcare Park (Rathlin Ward) who subsequently required to be detained under the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. RQIA only discovered this admission upon receipt of the young persons' detention forms from the trust. RQIA wrote to the trust on 6 June 2014 asking the trust to ensure that RQIA is notified appropriately of all admissions of young people under 18 to adult wards in line with guidance issued by DHSSPS.

Break Down of detained U18s by Age (Compulsorily detained only)

Department Figures		RQIA Figures	
Under 16	1	Under 16	2*
16 - 17	6	16-17	7**

\* RQIA was informed by both the Northern and Western Trust of an admission in their trust area of a young person aged 15 years to an adult ward.

\*\* The difference in the figures might be explained by the fact that the Belfast Trust failed to notify RQIA of an admission of one young person aged 17 who was admitted as a voluntary patient to Knockbracken Healthcare Park (Rathlin Ward) who subsequently required to be detained under the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. RQIA only discovered this admission upon receipt of the young persons' detention forms from the trust. RQIA wrote to the trust on 6 June 2014 asking the trust to ensure that RQIA is notified appropriately of all admissions of young people under 18 to adult wards in line with guidance issued by DHSSPS.

Appendix 2

Young people detained to adult psychiatric wards in 2014/15 by age, trust area, length of stay and reason for admission to adult ward

Admission Details							
Status	Age	Trust	Total no. of days in hospital	Total no. of admissions from 1 April 2014 to date	Date	Hospital	Reason for admission to adult ward
Detained	15	Northern Trust	16	1	07/04/2014	Holywell	No Bed in Beechcroft
Detained	15	Western Trust	3	1	03/05/2014	Grangewood	No Bed in Beechcroft
Detained	17	Southern Trust	9	1	20/05/2014	St. Luke's	Risk assessment indicated concerns about admission to children's ward
Detained	17	South Eastern Trust	4	2	29/05/2014	Downshire	Risk assessment indicated concerns about admission to children's ward
Detained	17	Belfast Trust	11	1	06/06/2014	Knockbracken	No Bed in Beechcroft
Detained	17	Belfast Trust	62	1	30/12/2014	Muckamore Abbey	Seclusion room in Iveagh was vandalised by patient, an alternative room was required. No seclusion room in Beechcroft.
Detained	16	Northern Trust	1	2	21/10/2014	Holywell	Misunderstanding by GP that there was no bed in Beechcroft
Detained	17	Northern Trust	3	1	20/12/2014	Holywell	No Bed in Beechcroft
Detained	17	Belfast Trust	27	1	05/03/2015	Muckamore Abbey Hospital	No Bed in Beechcroft