

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Philip McGuigan MLA
Chair of Committee for Health
Northern Ireland Assembly

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Dear

Philip

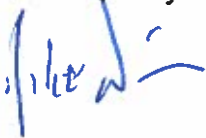
**THE PUBLIC HEALTH (NOTIFIABLE DISEASES – HANTAVIRUS DISEASES)
ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2026**

The Department of Health proposes to make the above Statutory Rule under the powers conferred by section 1(2) of the Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967("the Act").

The purpose of this Statutory Rule is to make hantavirus disease (including hantavirus pulmonary or cardio-pulmonary syndrome and haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome) a notifiable disease under the Act, so that medical practitioners will be required to share patient information with the Public Health Agency if they become aware, or have reasonable grounds, for suspecting that a person they are attending has hantavirus disease.

Given the urgency of the situation, I'm writing to request that the Committee conduct its scrutiny of the draft SR within a reduced timeframe and at the next Committee meeting;

Yours sincerely



Mike Nesbitt MLA
Minister of Health