

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Mr. Keith McBride
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Our Ref: SUB-0561-2026

Date: 15 September 2026

Dear Keith

STATUTORY RULE: RECOVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES CHARGES (AMOUNTS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2026

1. In respect of the Recovery of Post Accident Charges Tariff Uplift 2026-27 Scheme Administration I am writing to request that the Health Committee expediate the process and consider the draft SR Recovery of Health Services Charges (Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 as a matter of urgency at it's next meeting on 17 September.
2. The SR is subject to the negative resolution procedures and the department has informed the Examiner of Statutory rules that we would be in breach of the 21 day rule.
3. There is a minimum 4-week scrutiny period between the SL1 being received by the Committee and the Committee taking a decision on it at a formal meeting. However, we have been unable to meet this timeframe due to matters outside our control including the date these rates were approved by DHSC colleagues (20 July 2026) and the timing of summer recess during which Assembly committees do not normally meet. The Recovery Scheme operates in parity with the rest of GB, which includes the application of the tariff uplift. Therefore, the Department needs to make the statutory rule as a matter of urgency so that the Regulations can come into operation on 1st October 2026 in line with the rest of GB.

3. I would be most grateful if the SL1 could be considered at the Committee's next formal meeting on Thursday 17th September, given these exceptional circumstances.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robbie Butler'.

Robbie Butler MLA
Minister of Health