

November 13th 2017

BY EMAIL
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Our Ref: FOI 786

Dear Ms Corrigan,

Your request for information was received on October 17th 2017 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to Prison Inspections and personality disorders.

1. How many RQIA staff are devoted to prison inspections and how frequent are inspections to each of the 3 prisons?

Her Majesty's Prison Inspectorate (HMIP) is the lead body responsible for prison inspections in Northern Ireland and they determine the frequency of inspection. Eleven RQIA staff are usually involved in a single prison inspection but this varies depending on the type of inspection.

The frequency of inspections varies from year to year. In the past year RQIA staff visited:

- Maghaberry 3-5 April 2017
- Magilligan 19-21 June 2017

2. What Personality Disorder training have all those RQIA staff (who encounter mental health care) had, specifically by name of training, by whom (which body) and how many hours in total over the last 4 years.

All staff from RQIA's Mental Health and Learning Disability Directorate (MHLDD) and staff from other programmes attended commissioned Personality Disorder training provided by the Knowledge and Understanding Framework (KUF) and facilitated at the HSC Leadership Centre in 2013.

The exact dates were:

- Day 1 - 15th April 2013
- Day 2 - 10th May 2013
- Day 3 - 24th May 2013

The course entailed:

- 3 training days (2 weeks apart)
- Reading of literature
- Group work during training

A further training session was delivered on 13 November 2014 by RQIAs Consultant Psychiatrist which was attended by MHL D staff, including sessional officers.

- 3. Given that there are at present no Personality Disorder Specific treatments being provided to any significant number of prisoners with a PD in NI, despite 64% of male and 50% of female prisoners having a PD in prison, what is RQIA doing to inspect how the South East Trust is adequately addressing PD needs to the same level inside prison as those who have a PD outside prison. (There are 3 proven treatments for PD- DBT, Mentalization and Schema).**

RQIA inspects prison healthcare using best practice guidance from The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and other bodies. Every prisoner is screened at committal to identify any particular vulnerabilities. Your comment about no specific personality disorder treatments being provided to any significant number of prisoners is a matter for the HSC Board (HSCB) and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT). RQIA is aware that they are continuing with a case for additional resources

RQIA meet with Trust staff to discuss issues regarding the delivery of healthcare for prisoners in addition to inspecting wards in The Trust where patients receive mental health inpatient treatment services. The Trust made RQIA aware that they deliver a range of individual and group based therapeutic interventions. RQIA is also aware that The Trust Prison Health Care staff have received training in KUF. This is an agreed training model was commissioned by the Department of Health (DoH) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The Trust put this in place to increase the capabilities and skills of all staff to work more effectively with individuals with personality disorder.

RQIA has reviewed other services available for people with personality disorder needs within prisons. A Women's Personality Disorder Groupwork programme is being delivered in Hyde Bank Wood. We are aware that this pilot programme is currently being reviewed by The Trust to consider options for implementation across other prison sites.

RQIA is also aware that a mindfulness group work programmes is delivered across a range of prison sites and groups.

In addition, a SHARE programme has been established by The Trust targeted at increasing awareness, building resilience and reducing levels of self-harming behaviour. The programme is delivered on both an individual and group based formats

RQIA has sought information on the training offered to mental health staff in the Trust, and will continue to monitor on inspection that the knowledge and skills are

incorporated in staff engagements with service users in prison and in their mental health and learning disability wards.

- b) Are RQIA addressing and monitoring the experiences of those in prison who have a PD, to ensure their symptoms are not being exacerbated and their symptoms are not overlooked. Are prisoners questioned about their health care needs?**

RQIA has increased the composition of the prison inspection team to include a consultant, psychologist and staff from the MHL D Team since November 2016 to ensure that RQIA can review how the mental health needs of prisoners are met. RQIA staff speak to a sample of prisoners that we come into contact with and review the experiences of a number of prisoners in relation to their views about the quality of their healthcare services in prison. This may include patients with personality disorders.

- c) Is RQIA aware that there are no PD specific health care professionals working in any NI prison and how does RQIA feel that is acceptable?**

Personality disorder services are commissioned regionally by HSCB. RQIA is aware that there are no personality disorder-specific services in NI prisons. The programmes outlined in 3(a) are delivered to individuals with a diagnosis of personality disorder and to those individuals who have a range of mental health needs and who benefit from these evidenced based interventions.

RQIA is satisfied that The Trust is continuing to review the assessed needs and the range of interventions they are delivering, and that The Trust is seeking additional resources to increase access to therapeutic interventions for those with a personality disorder.

- d) What is RQIA doing about reports that those with a PD are not being adequately cared for in relation to suicidality (common with PD) and solitary confinement given to those with a PD. How is PD safeguarding measured by RQIA?**

Responsibility for safeguarding in prison rests with the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS). If there is any issue regarding suicide risk or increase risk of suicide in solitary confinement, there is a process agreed with prison healthcare professionals to respond. Anyone who meets this criteria is managed within the Supporting Prisoners At Risk (SPAR) process.

RQIA is unclear which reports you are referring to in respect of the care of patients with a personality disorder in relation to suicidality and solitary confinement.

- 4) What actions has RQIA taken in the past 2 years in relation to prisoners with a PD and their PD needs being neglected? What plans are in place to deal with this?**

The commissioning of services for people with a personality disorder is a responsibility of HSCB. RQIA liaises routinely with the HSC Trust and HSC Board in respect of their commissioning plans for this service. RQIA is aware that personality disorder services require further investment regionally.

RQIA has increased the composition of the prison inspection team to include a consultant, psychologist and staff from the MHLTD Team since November 2016 to ensure that RQIA can review how the mental health needs of prisoners are met.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,



Olive MacLeod
Chief Executive, RQIA