

Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Adult Safeguarding Statement

Our Adult Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with the Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.

About HIQA

HIQA is an independent statutory authority which promotes safety and quality in the provision of health and social care services. It regulates residential services for older people, children and adults with disabilities, children in special care units and medical exposures to ionising radiation by both public and private providers. It also monitors health services in Ireland's public hospitals and the community, permanent international protection accommodation service centres and a range of children's services. It develops standards, carries out projects and provides guidance for the health and social care sector. It may also meet with adults in focus groups or during investigations. It carries out health technology assessments and makes recommendations to policy-makers. This means that HIQA staff come in to contact with adults in a range of health and social care settings. Information of concern received by HIQA is reviewed by our information handling service.

In addition, HIQA has support services which ensure that the organisation can carry out its work in a legal, effective and efficient way.

Our safeguarding principles

HIQA is committed to safeguarding adults in all areas of its work. It takes every reasonable action to promote adults' safety in its staff recruitment, policies and procedures and in the information, training and the ongoing supervision it provides to staff. All staff members are bound by HIQA's procedures and must consider referring any adult safeguarding concerns of which they become aware in the course of their work, to relevant third parties such as the HSE, the Mental Health Commission and An Garda Síochána or other bodies as required.

Risk assessment

HIQA takes a structured approach to risk management, to ensure that all risks are managed with effective controls. HIQA's risk management framework incorporates the identification, assessment, mitigation, monitoring and governance of risk. HIQA reviews the risk and control measures that it has in place on a regular basis.

Procedures

HIQA has put in place a number of policies and procedures to control adult safeguarding risks which can be assessed in Precision for staff or on request for visitors. They include:

- Adult safeguarding policy
- Adult safeguarding standard operating procedure
- Adult safeguarding assessment and decision form
- Recruitment and selection policy
- Managing allegations made against staff members standard operating procedure

HIQA is committed to the implementation and on-going review of this Adult Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep adults at risk safe from harm while coming into contact with HIQA staff. This Adult Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 1 May 2026, or as soon as practicable thereafter if there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

The current Designated Liaison Person is Ann Delany from 1 December 2021.

Signed:



Angela Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer, Health Information and Quality Authority

Date: 18 April 2024