

Duty of Candour & Being Open

Public Consultation

The Department of Health (DoH) is consulting on policy proposals to implement a Duty of Candour for Health and Social Care (HSC) and are keen to hear from everyone who uses or provides services.

The introduction of a statutory Duty of Candour for Northern Ireland was one of the key recommendations arising from the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia Related Deaths (IHRD). The IHRD report recommended that the statutory Duty of Candour should apply to Healthcare Organisations and everyone working for them. The Inquiry also recommended that criminal liability should attach to breach of this duty and to obstruction of another in the performance of this duty. Further recommendations were made about the need for guidance, support and protection to be provided for staff and organisations in order to create a more open culture.

Consultation Event

The DoH is hosting an online information session for Dentists and Dental Practice staff at **6pm on Thursday 3rd June 2021**. The purpose of this event is to provide an overview of the proposals that have been published for consultation, and answer any questions that attendees may have. Further information regarding this event, including registration details, can be accessed [here](#)

What work has been done to date?

In response, the DoH established the Hyponatraemia Implementation Programme to take forward the recommendations arising from the Inquiry. The Duty of Candour Workstream, and its Being Open Subgroup, have been responsible for developing the proposal options to address the recommendations on candour.

Through a co-production process, the Workstream and Subgroup have developed policy options for the statutory Duty of Candour and the policy framework for Being Open guidance, taking account of:

- research commissioned;
- evidence submitted;
- feedback from staff and service users; and
- input from other key stakeholders.

Further background information on this co-production process can be found [here](#).

Consultation

The DoH is now seeking your views on the following proposals developed by the Workstream and Subgroup:

- (a) Policy options for the statutory organisational Duty of Candour; and
- (b) Policy options for the statutory individual Duty of Candour; and
- (c) The policy framework for Being Open guidance.

The consultation will run from 12 April 2021 to 2 August 2021. The consultation documentation is available on the DoH website [here](#).

Responses to the consultation are welcomed via Citizen Space [here](#). Responses can also be completed and sent to:

Email – IHRD.Implementation@health-ni.gov.uk

Write to -

Department of Health
Quality Regulation, Policy & Legislation
Room D1.1, Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Further Information

Further information in relation to the Duty of Candour Workstream and Being Open Subgroup, as well as the whole Hyponatraemia Implementation Programme, is available [here](#).