

RCoA Northern Ireland Board
Thursday 22 May 2025
14:00 to 16:00
Boardroom 2, ICC Belfast

MINUTES

Members:

Dr Will Donaldson, Chair	Dr Killian McCourt (apologies)
Dr Rosemary Hogg	Dr Sinead McGuirk
Dr Jonathan Holland	Dr Madalina McCrea
Dr Emma Gordon (Trainee)	Dr Philip Canny (Trainee) (apologies)
Dr Anne Bailey (Trainee) (apologies)	*Elected SAS member vacancy

Ex-Officio:

Dr Claire Shannon, RCoA President	Dr Mary Malloy, HoS
Dr Esther Davis, RAA Intensive Care Medicine	Dr Tim Bennett Deputy RAA Anaesthetics
Dr Neal Beckett, Association of Anaesthetists Representative (apologies)	Dr Nathan Oliver, RAA Pain Medicine
Ms Lynn Johnston, PatientVoices (apologies)	

Co-opted:

Dr Donal Buggy, CAI President (apologies)	Martin McCormack, CAI CEO (apologies)
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Staff:

Mr Jono Brүүn, RCoA Chief Executive
Ms Katie Hobson, Policy and Public Affairs Assistant
Mr Nii-Teiko Turkson, Governance Administrator and secretariat

1. Introductions, Welcome and Apologies (WD)

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

The participants introduced themselves.

Apologies were received from Dr Neal Beckett,, Dr Philip Canny, Dr Killian McCourt, and Dr Richard Laird.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited the Board to submit any declarations of interest relating to the agenda items. There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of and actions from the previous meeting held on Tuesday the 8th of October 2024.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 were circulated in advance of the meeting, and the following changes were requested:

- Dr Esther Davis noted that for the section under Regional Adviser Intensive Care Medicine - the first bullet point under educational programme should have the last sentence removed. The statement about being organised by 2 faculty tutors, one of whom is now an examiner, refers to the exam prep course and not the seminar programme.
- Dr Will Donaldson highlighted that the minutes of the NI Board are made publicly accessible on the RCoA College website and have been previously used by a journalist in an article about the College.

The actions from the previous meeting were discussed, and the following updates provided:

- There has been no progress on the outstanding action of recruitment of a SAS Doctor representative to the Board. Dr Donaldson has approached numerous people to fill this position without success. The next election for NI Board Members will take place at the beginning of 2026.
- There is an outstanding action for the RCoA President to discuss regional representation on the Board with Prof Donal Buggy, President of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland.
- NI Board Members continue to be invited to provide material to the next Chair of the Board to generate a newsletter from the NI Board for College Members.
- The actions for Mary Molloy/Russell Ampofo/Peter Kunzmann in identifying specific anaesthetic workforce issues in Northern Ireland has been completed.
- The action for Graham Blair to review Membership data and identify regional members to be approached to be part of the NI Board at future elections has been completed.

4. RCoA Northern Ireland Board Terms of Reference

Will Donaldson noted a necessary change to the reference to quoracy of the Board stated in the ToR. The changes to be made to the ToR were:

- In Section 4.1, edits to be made so that it reads 'The quorum of the Board shall be 50% or more of those board members identified in 2.1 – 2.5' and not 'The quorum of the Board shall be 50% or more of those board members identified in 3.1 a,b,c and d'.

ACTION: Nii-Teiko Turkson to circulate the edited ToR to the Board for approval. If there are no comments, the amended ToR to be accepted as final and uploaded to the College website. The ToR will next be due for review in October 2025.

5i. RCoA College Report

1. Council and Board of Trustees Updates

Dr Claire Shannon provided the President's update on College business and the following points were highlighted:

5 new council members have taken office commencing on Wednesday 5 March.

- Dr Helgi Johannsson, Imperial College Healthcare
- Dr Kirsty MacLennan, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
- Dr Emily Simpson, Mid and South Essex NHS Trust, Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford
- Dr Chris Till, Blackpool Victoria Hospital
- Dr Kirstin May, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Anaesthesia Associates and the Leng review

- The Leng Review is ongoing and is looking at the roles and implementation of the medical associate professionals programme. It is led by Prof Gillian Leng who is an academic.
- The College is a key stakeholder in the review of the PA and AA roles and Dr Shannon has attended three stakeholder roundtables to provide evidence to the enquiry. This evidence has been collated by the College as part of its EGM process. This includes survey data and the Cochrane Review which the College commissioned to consider medical associate professionals, and in particular anaesthetics associates. The Cochrane Review looked at all published papers nationally and internationally.
- Dr Shannon highlighted that a Webinar had taken place on 14 April 2025 at her request for Members of the RCoA to pose their questions directly to Professor Leng and raise any concerns that they had.
- It is anticipated that the Leng Review will be published in Summer 2025.
- Dr Shannon reiterated the position of the College Council that following the Scope of Practice Review, the College expected Trusts to implement the pause in recruitment of Anaesthetics Associates until Council had had time to consider the published Leng Review and its implications.
- In order to align the AA Curriculum with the 2024 Scope of Practice Review, the College is in communication with the GMC and has made a minor adjustment to the original Curriculum that was developed a couple of years ago and is awaiting approval of this from the GMC.

Review of Training:

- Chris Whitty (Chief Medical Officer for England) and Steve Powis (NHSE National Medical Director) are leading a major review of postgraduate training. This is the first major review for 15 years and will consider all aspects of training.
- Dr Shannon noted that the College opinion is that current training does not fit service needs or the needs of anaesthetic trainees. It is likely to suggest radical change in training is necessary and it is possible that it could include a review of exams.
- RCoA are engaging with the Leng review and the RCoA AITs together with AoA trainee group have had meeting with Professor Whitty and Powis to put forward their views. The AITs were very positive about the support that they receive from consultants and the medical profession in general. They also generated many ideas that could be taken forward.
- The first stage will be largely diagnostic and will need to be followed by a delivery plan. Whilst it is commissioned by NHS England, it will likely have implications for devolved nations and any implications for the Anaesthesia National Recruitment Office (ANRO) will have a direct effect on training in Northern Ireland.

RCoA Census 2025:

- This is now live, and members have been asked to feed into this. The census will provide

the College with key information on workforce numbers and the working patterns and wellbeing of anaesthetists across the 4 Nations.

- This provides the information for the College to lobby on behalf of its Members.

New College Headquarters

- Mr Jono Brүүn noted that the Trustees made a decision in the Summer 2024 to sell Churchill House, the College headquarters building in Red Lion Square, Holborn, London. This was the conclusion of around two years of review, noting the capacity of the building and the capacity requirements for the College; and also that Churchill House was an ageing building requiring a lot of expensive redevelopment work. The property was sold in January 2025 to Whitbread plc, and this was communicated to Members in February.
- Mr Brүүn noted that the search is well underway to identify a new home for the College. The College had considered the possibility that a location outside London would be preferable to its Members. However, the Member journey, in terms of the various interactions that they have with the College was spatially mapped and it was decided that London would be the best location and ideally close to a transport hub. The final choice will ideally be more modern, will allow the College to control the costs to Members and will therefore be more sustainable.

More feedback will be provided once a final decision on a new location is made.

Recent political engagement

- Ms Katie Hobson referred to her report that at the beginning of April 2025 the Policy team contacted Mike Nesbitt, the Health Minister in Northern Ireland, to arrange another meeting with him and his team. Should we be successful in this, we will be using the meeting to discuss the findings from the RCoA 2024 State of the Nation report around anaesthetic workforce shortages, as well as perioperative care.
- Ms Hobson updated on recent meetings with Colin McGrath a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Northern Ireland who has served as Health Spokesperson for the SDLP and is now on the Legislative Assembly's Health Committee.
- Ms Hobson noted that in June 2025, alongside Dr Rosemary Hogg, Katie would be meeting with Sally Donnelly who is Deputy Chair of the Health Committee.
- Ms Hobson noted that the Policy and Public Affairs team has met with many MLAs in the past and that this will continue to be valuable in encouraging questions to be asked in the Assembly around policy priorities for the College.
- The Policy team has just released three sets of surveys which have been issued to College Tutors, to clinical leaders in anaesthesia and to the wider anaesthetic workforce. Results of the survey of the wider anaesthetic workforce will inform the next set of policy priorities for the College and will provide data that can be shared with policy makers.
- The Policy team is also currently working on the development of a patient survey which will look at patient experiences on a surgical waiting list. This will potentially allow the Policy team to develop an economic argument on the impact of waiting lists which would be useful for discussion with Government ministers. The survey will also map peri-operative care services to inform future policy work.

The anaesthetic workforce in Northern Ireland

Workforce numbers in Northern Ireland, 2020 and 2022

2020		2022		Percentage change
Consultants	275	Consultants	311	13.1
SAS doctors	40	SAS doctors	48	20.0
Combined	315	Combined	359	14.0

Anaesthetic workforce shortfalls, 2022

Consultant	SAS doctor	Combined
2022	2022	2022
42	16	58
2020	2020	2020
31	33	64

- Health and Social Care is currently short of 58 consultants and SAS anaesthetists.
- We estimate that this is preventing around 43,500 operations and procedures from taking place each year (based on the assumption that an anaesthetist on average will deliver 750 operations and procedures per year).
- The lack of anaesthetists also reduces the training capacity, medical leadership, QI, research and innovation in Northern Ireland.
- From our Heads of School survey (2023), we know that the current system in Northern Ireland has capacity to support:
 - 20 extra core anaesthetic training places
 - 20 extra higher anaesthetic training places
- However, for these additional training places to become available they need Government funding.

Government action

- In a meeting with the RCoA, Mike Nesbitt was presented with data and workforce information that highlighted the need for continued recruitment into training. However, the NI Government is restricted by budget challenges. In the 2025/26 Budget, although the DoH received 50.6% of the total NI budget (£8,387.9 million) this only represents a real terms increase of 2.6% on the previous year.
- Dr Will Donaldson thanked Ms Hobson for her report, noting the continued work by the Policy team to bring College priorities to ministers.
- Dr Donaldson updated on his recent meeting with Dr Ramai Santhirapala, elected Consultant Member of the College Council. Dr Santhirapala has received some time limited funding to conduct CPOC work on the EPIC Health Record System and will be discussing this with Dr Donaldson in the next few weeks.

ACTION: Dr Will Donaldson to meet with Dr Ramai Santhirapala to discuss time-limited funding to conduct CPOC work on the EPIC Health Record System. The scope of this work is to be reviewed and passed on to the next Chair of the NI Board to oversee alongside Dr Santhirapala if this is deemed appropriate.

6. Chair's Business

Dr Will Donaldson highlighted the following points:

- The review of the Maintaining High Professional Standards (MHPS) document has been completed with a few changes.
- The Review into the Serious Incidents (SI) process has not been completed. This is open to public consultation until 6 June 2025.
- Dr Donaldson noted that there were some concerns amongst anaesthetists that there might be the introduction of criminal prosecution against clinicians involved in Serious Incidents following an investigation. Dr Donaldson asked that Board Members review the SI document and provide any comments back to him, so that a statement could be

- drafted and provided to the consultation on behalf of the NI Board.
- Dr Donaldson suggested that the NI Board should provide a position statement on the process.

ACTION: All NI Board Members to feed back to Dr Will Donaldson on the Review into the SI process by 30 May 2025. Dr Donaldson will draft a position statement from the RCoA NI Board to the Review of the SI Process and submit this as part of the consultation.

- Dr Donaldson will be stepping down as Chair of the NI Board having completed two terms and referred to his resignation email that had been sent to all Board Members. Dr Donaldson noted that discussions regarding an interest in appointment as the next Chair and/or Vice Chair would take place informally with the College and that he was willing to provide any support to interested parties in their decision to take on the role of Chair or Vice Chair.

ACTION: All eligible NI Board Members interested in the role of Chair or Vice Chair of the Board to informally approach RCoA President Dr Claire Shannon, or RCoA Chief Executive Mr Jono Brüün to discuss interest.

7. Advisors' Business

7i. Deputy Regional Advisor for Anaesthetics

Dr Tim Bennett provided an update on Regional Adviser (RA) business for anaesthetics. The following points were raised:

- There is new guidance regarding Stage 3 training and flexibility which is currently being sent to Heads of School for review.
- Tim has signed off four new consultant job plans since joining as Deputy RA for Anaesthetics in February.
 - South-Eastern Trust – special interest in pain – post number 3100
 - Belfast Trust
 - Belfast City Hospital /Royal Victoria Hospital / Royal Victoria Intensive Care Unit – joint ICM – post number 3123
 - Royal Victoria Hospital / Belfast City Hospital – post number 3125a
 - Belfast City Hospital / Mater Infirmorum Hospital – post number 3125b
- Recruitment to training posts is as stated in the report by the Head of School of Anaesthesia.
- As of 08/05/2025, all Trusts have adopted the Encompass electronic record keeping system – this is now the only system available in the public sector in NI.
- Regional teaching opportunities continue to expand, with the addition of two new simulation-based courses devised and developed by local trainees – Paediatric Anaesthesia Network for Developing Anaesthetists (PANDA) and Rising to Registrar.

7ii. Regional Advisor for Intensive Care

Dr Esther Davis provided an update of RA business for Intensive Care and the following points were raised:

Training

There are currently 23 training in Intensive Care Medicine (ICM) in Northern Ireland.

- There are 11 dual training with anaesthesia; six are dual training with EM; 4 are triple training with Acute Internal Medicine/General Internal Medicine (AIM/GIM); 1 triple training with respiratory/GIM; and 1 is currently single ICM along with an Academic Clinical Lecturer (ACL) programme (50% clinical, 50% research).

- 4 of our programme have received their Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) already this training year (3 anaesthetics-ICM, 1 AIM-ICM) and another 2 are expected to CCT in August (both dual anaesthesia-ICM) 2025.

Recruitment

ICM specialty recruitment for August 2025 was again part of the national process with an online interview format.

- Three were appointed to the training programme – two appointed simultaneously to both anaesthetics and ICM Higher Specialty Training (HST); and the third will dual train with emergency medicine (EM).

Exam

There were three local candidates from the training programme in the March Fellow of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FFICM) OSCE-SOE sitting along with a locally employed doctor and all were successful. The next written exam will take place in June with the next OSCE-SOE in September.

Educational programme

- Regional seminars continue to be delivered by each of the six training units and cover the exam syllabus with particular focus on hard-to-reach areas of the curriculum. Feedback continues to be very positive.
- Our local exam prep course with practice OSCE-SOE is provided for local candidates as needed and feedback is excellent. Since its inception, this has been organised by members of the training committee. Due to other commitments and the larger number of local FFICM examiners, we have outsourced this to some able volunteers. We thank the outgoing organisers, Dr Black and Dr Headley, for all their hard work and investment in the course. And we thank Drs Gibson, Murnin and Gordon who are taking this on.
- The new deanery's SUCCEED role has been in place this year for ICM. SUCCEED is a fellowship initiative within the School of Anaesthetics & Intensive Care Medicine in Northern Ireland, designed to support anaesthetic trainees in preparing for their FRCA exams—both Primary and Final. Our appointee has been assisting with the existing educational programme and aiming to develop some new resources over the year. We are glad to report that this role will continue next year.

ARCPs

There have been a number of final and interim Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCPs) during the course of the year so far. The main ARCP session is planned for June 23rd. We are glad to welcome an external observer who is an ICM RA from another region.

New curriculum and portfolio

There are no new issues to report on the new curriculum or portfolio.

Consultant positions and workforce

FICM are repeating their workforce survey through the RAs in the coming months and in NI we continue to anticipate consultant vacancies that will not be filled from the current training programme.

- The deanery has presented this to the department of health but we have been unsuccessful in increasing our funded training posts so far.
- Of note, England, Scotland and Wales have additional posts in recent years and there is still no anticipated date for a formal NI ICM workforce assessment by PHA.

FICM news

FICM have now confirmed plans to transition to an independent College of Intensive Care Medicine in 2026, and this has been fully supported by RCoA. FICM are working to maintain a seamless transition with current recruitment, training and exam workstreams.

7iii. Regional Advisor for Pain Medicine

- Dr Nathan Oliver **provided an update of RA business for Intensive Care and the following points were raised:**
- There is one trainee due to CCT in Pain Medicine in November and another due to CCT in beginning 2026.
- There is an ongoing concern about the disparity in how much exposure resident doctors get to chronic pain medicine in different Trusts and in addition Dr Oliver expressed the opinion that the new curriculum does not provide enough opportunities for trainees to obtain pain medicine training.
- Dr Oliver noted that under the previous training system, trainees were able to trial a short period of chronic pain medicine before later committing to a full year of fellowship training. This no longer exists under the new curriculum.
- Dr Will Donaldson acknowledged that not having the opportunity for a full year fellowship training was challenging for the recruitment of pain medicine doctors but considered that there were other opportunities for trainees to obtain training including the Stage 3 Special Interest Area (SIA) training.
- Dr Oliver noted that the Faculty of Pain Medicine had recently published gap analysis that showed that most regions in Northern Ireland do not provide pain services.
- Dr Donaldson agreed that if this gap analysis showed a health inequality, then this was an issue that the College could bring to the Minister of Health's attention at the next occasion that the Board meet with him at an RCoA NI Board Meeting.
- Dr Donaldson asked Dr Mary Molloy as Head of School whether she might have some thoughts about this in advance of putting something before the Minister.

ACTION: Dr Mary Molloy to review the gap analysis on availability of pain services published by the Faculty of Pain Medicine and to consider whether this inequality can be highlighted to the NI Minister of Health at the next occasion that the NI Board meet with him.

7iv. School of Anaesthesia

Dr Mary Molloy provided an update on School of Anaesthesia business and the following points were raised:

School of Anaesthesia report

- Successful round 1 and round 2 recruitment for Aug 2025.
- Round 1 we appointed 16 CT1s and 4 Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) CT1s. There were 180 applicants, 44 interview slots. Top 20 ranked offered places but we went to 23rd ranked applicant to fill all posts.
- Round 2 we had 17 applicants for 15 ST4 posts. There were 2 deferrals due to statutory leave until August 2026. We offered 16th ranked candidate ST4 post in lieu of deferrals. 17th ranked did not reach appointable score at interview but is on track for outcome 6 and we agreed to offer extension in programme for 6 months from August 2025. They will re-apply round 3.
- We had 5 CCT in Feb 2025 –3 dual ICM and 2 anaesthesia all successfully taking up substantive posts in the region. Between March and October 2025, we have/will have 15 residents reaching CCT in anaesthesia including 2 dual ICM. Majority have secured substantive posts, 2 are doing post CCT fellowships in paediatrics at Great Ormond Street Hospital and in Perth Australia and 1 undertaken a research post. We are delighted that Western Trust has secured substantive posts for 4 of our residents completing training. They have had a number of unfilled consultant positions for many years.
- We currently have 36 Less Than Full Time (LTFT), 10 on Maternity leave and 7 Out of Programme (OOP). 7 OOP is more than usually facilitated in a year but there were extenuating circumstances.
- Examination results have been excellent both at primary and Final. Three residents achieved full FRCA at end of stage 1 in December 2024 before starting Stage 2 in Feb 2025 and 3 CT3s already achieved written FRCA at Feb 2025 sitting. We wish to thank all the anaesthetic SUCCEED education fellows organising the teaching programme and viva practice. The education fellows are appointed through competitive selection process

and supported by our deanery, Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA). They are allowed 20% time per week over the year for teaching and training commitments and receive an educational bursary from NIMDTA to fund PG Cert/ Diploma/ Masters in Medical Education at Queens University Belfast. SUCCEED stands for – Supporting training, Understanding the Curriculum, Covering the Curriculum, Enhancing prospects, Ensuring Opportunities for all, Discovering purpose. The education fellows can map activities and achievement to Generic Professional Capabilities (GPCs) of curriculum but also can get recognition for up to 3 months Education and Training Special Interest Area (SIA) when undertaken in stage 3.

- Regarding workforce planning recent submission to the Minister of Health from DoH Workforce Policy for all medical specialty expansion included request for only 1 additional anaesthesia training post. We had thought the proposal would be for x2 anaes and x 1 ICM however this was reduced to only x 1 anaesthesia on the final submission. This was disappointing but we would be very grateful for even 1 additional funded post. We have ensured number of CCT holders to date by over recruitment, juggling gaps from OOP/ML/LTFT each and some top up Trust funding where needed.

8. College of Anesthesiologists of Ireland

There was no representative from CAI at the meeting and no update was reported.

9. Association of Anesthetists Business

Dr Neil Beckett was not present at the meeting, but the report he provided to the Board raised the following points:

- Since the last Board meeting, the Association, as well as responding to a number of major issues and consultations, has begun the streamlining of, and hopefully, futureproofing of its organisational structure.
- A governance review of the Association was conducted by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) in 2023. Based on the Charity Governance Code, this was an endeavour to streamline the organisation, which has previously operated as two separate entities: AAGBI (limited company with elected board of directors) and AAGBI Foundation (registered charity with board of trustees)
- 'The future of our Association – Stronger, smarter, more inclusive' is a response to this review, which aims to simplify organisation structure, increase diversity in boards and committees and use resources more efficiently. The merger of the AAGBI company into the charity will create a single charitable company structure renamed *Association of Anaesthetists (Great Britain & Ireland)*. A wholly owned trading company will handle commercial activity.
- It is acknowledged most members will not notice much change to their personal interaction with the Association, their subscriptions now going directly to the charity. The benefits are primarily in efficiency and ability to promote diversity, representation and accessibility. Proposed changes will need approval from voting membership at a General Meeting in June 2025.

2. To reflect increasingly diverse ways excellence is demonstrated in anaesthesia, the Association has announced the introduction of some new awards:

John Snow Medal for Patient Safety.

Mal Morgan Educator of the Year award, and Educational Team of the Year Award.

Wellbeing Advocate of the Year award.

3. The Association while continuing its 'Fight Fatigue Campaign', has contributed to the recently released Health Services Safety Investigations Body report 'The impact of staff fatigue on patient safety'. This will hopefully increase awareness of this issue while increasing pressure on the NHS to introduce positive changes in the working patterns of its staff.

4. Since the last Board meeting, the Association has submitted considered responses to two NI Department of Health consultation questionnaires:

- i. Proposed changes to law regarding corporate and clinician Duty of Candour was considered in the Association response to the 'Being Open Framework' consultation.
- ii. The structure of future health services and the role of anaesthetic services was explored in the Association response to 'Creating a Network for Better Outcomes', a blueprint for healthcare restructuring.

5. The regulation and impact of Anaesthetic Associates (AAs) has been closely considered by the Association, both in its Feb 2025 update and position statement on AAs and submission to the Leng Review, an independent review of the introduction of Physician and Anaesthetic Associate roles. Of note, the Association was not included as stakeholders nor invited to the launch discussion. The Association has highlighted its emphasis on patient safety and its continued willingness to engage with issues concerning Associate introduction, training and regulation.

Further responses to consultations have been submitted to 'Leading the NHS- proposals for Regulation of Managers' (supporting regulation and individual responsibility) and 'Assisted Dying – Clauses of Concern' (response to Kim Leadbeater Bill, highlighting concern over the scope of clinical teams potentially involved).

6. The Association continues to provide a wide range of training and educational opportunities to Resident and Consultant anaesthetists. There are several in-person and online training courses, study days and seminars.

In 2025, Core Topics study days are planned for Darlington, York and Wessex.

The Residents Annual Conference is in Wembley London on 26th – 27th June 2025, while the Annual Congress is in Aberdeen on 17-19th September 2025.

10. Trainee Representative Business

- Dr Emma Gordon welcomed the election of Dr Anne Bailey who has been elected as a Trainee Representative replacing Dr Alex Greene on the Northern Ireland Group of Anaesthetic Trainees (NIGAT).
- Dr Emma Gordon will shortly be leaving the Board as she will no longer be a trainee having CCTed and will shortly be taking up a Consultant post.
- Dr Gordon attended an event in March 2025 at Ulster University, Derry Londonderry Campus, where current medical students from Ulster University & Queen's University were provided with information about the RCoA and training in anaesthetics.

11. AOB

- Dr Will Donaldson noted that Clinical Directors in Northern Ireland are keen to establish a CD Network. Dr Donaldson suggested that once this is established the NI Board should consider appointing a Clinical Director from the Network to the NI Board.

ACTION: Next Chair of NI Board to continue to monitor the establishment of a Clinical Director Network in Northern Ireland and to bring to the Board, the possibility of appointing a Clinical Director to the NI Board as an ex-officio Member.

- Dr Rosie Hogg noted that she would be stepping down from her role as Anaesthetics Adviser to the Northern Ireland Department of Health, having been the first person in the role. The role has been secured for the long term and will soon be advertised.
- **The date of the next meeting is 21 October 2025 and will be via Microsoft Teams.**