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Chair and Chief Executive
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

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Dear Chair and Chief Executive, Stuart and Jennifer

Being Human – HSC Safety Culture Framework

May I take this opportunity to thank you, your Board, and your Senior Team for nominating Being Human Ambassadors and Champions to lead the co-production and implementation of the Being Human Safety Culture Framework within your organisation and across the region.

Many colleagues from your organisation attended the Being Human ECHO launch earlier this week. This marked an important milestone as we move collectively towards the implementation phase of the framework.

The ECHO programme will enable shared learning through facilitated, tele-enabled sessions over the coming year. It has been co-designed to support all of us across the HSC family to collectively adopt, embed, and sustain the HSC Safety Culture Framework within all of our organisations and, critically, across the whole system.

In light of the recent findings and recommendations from the Muckamore Public Inquiry and the Urology Services Inquiry, the need for a consistent, system-wide approach to building and sustaining a culture that prioritises the safety and wellbeing of both patients and staff has never been more evident. These inquiries reinforce our collective responsibility more than ever to adopt the Being Human approach and the need for a coordinated, systemic response to the learning that has emerged from these reports.

The Being Human framework, in part, provides a shared response to these imperatives. Originating from the Review of Records of Deceased Patients, associated with the Neurology Public Inquiry, it has been co-developed over the past three years by

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colleagues across the HSC and those with lived experience. It is a unifying approach to setting out what a positive safety culture looks like, providing us with a common language, direction, and method to progress, learn and improve together.

As we move into the next phase, I would value your continued visible leadership, support, and advocacy for the Being Human Framework. As you know, the framework was published in September last year and endorsed by the Minister. While further work continues to develop supporting tools and resources, the framework itself is complete and ready to be fully adopted, supported through the ECHO programme.

At the ECHO launch this week, I asked for a small but visible demonstration of our collective commitment through the publication of the HSC Being Human Safety Culture Framework across all HSC organisations, making it accessible and visible to all who interact with our system.

I would therefore ask that your Trust publishes the framework on its website. The framework and supporting summary document can be accessed via the ECHO website here: Being Human — A Safety Culture Framework for HSC Northern Ireland

This shared platform provides a central, system-wide point of access to the framework and associated materials.

I would be very happy to support your Communications Team should this be helpful.

Thank you again for your leadership, commitment and ongoing support. Significant progress has already been achieved through our collective efforts across the HSC, and this shared priority continues to bring us closer to a more consistent and human-centred safety culture. I look forward to continuing to work with you, or colleagues representing your organisation, through the Being Human Steering Group as we embed this work across our system.

Yours sincerely

Rodney Morton
Being Human Steering Group Chair