



## BRIEFING NOTE For Elected Representatives



The Acute Mental Health Inpatient Centre (AMHIC) on the Belfast City Hospital site was completed in June 2019 and was designed to provide inpatient accommodation with ensuite facilities for up to 80 patients.

There have been a number of water and damp related issues which have impacted the building. Despite the rectification of a number of defects during and post construction, the building has continued to suffer from water ingress, including pin hole leaks within pipework. This water ingress has resulted in adverse implications to the fabric of the building.

Following exploratory works in two of the bedrooms in February 2025, and subsequent moisture mapping and additional survey works across the building, the Trust has now developed a proposed route forward for addressing the damage caused by the water ingress and replacing the existing water system.

The Trust is currently working with its legal advisors to appoint independent specialists to undertake a comprehensive review of the water system and any potential sources of water ingress and to help identify liability for the costs of the remediation work.









The safety of our patients continues to be the Trust's main priority. To allow the work to progress with least disruption to services for vulnerable patients, the Trust will refurbish a ward at a time by decanting one of the AMHIC wards to another facility for the duration of the works. A ward on the Trust's Knockbracken site will be refurbished to be used as the decant ward during the refurbishment period. While the main refurbishment works are undertaken the Trust will continue to monitor the condition of the existing wards within the AMHIC building. This specialist facility has been designed to cater for the specific needs and risks of managing acute mental health patients and remains the safest place for these service users. The Trust will continue to monitor for evidence of damp in any patient area of the building and carry out localised remediation as necessary.

A high level works programme has been developed which will take approximately three and a half years. This timeframe is for full resolution, including preparatory works to the decant ward.

We are engaging with staff, patients and family members and will keep them updated on developments and progress.



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