

14 August 2025

Assignment of Recall Drs – Dr Watt

Please confirm the following in relation to the Trust’s handling of the Dr Michael Watt patient recall in 2018:

1. What criteria were used to assign reviewing consultants to Cohort 1 patients?

In advance of recalling patients a validation exercise was completed. As part of the validation, the patient’s current diagnosis was identified. Patients to be recalled were therefore allocated to the consultant with the appropriate specialist expertise.

2. How many patients in Cohort 1 were reviewed by consultants employed directly by the Trust (as opposed to independent or external clinicians)?

1231 Cohort 1 patients were reviewed by consultants and locum consultants employed directly by the Trust

3. Was there any formal or informal involvement of RQIA steering group members in allocating recall consultants?

No

4. Were reviewers given access to patient medical history prior to their recall appointment?

Patient neurological records were available to consultants for recall appointment consultations. All consultants also had access to the Northern Ireland Electronic Care Record (NIECR) for accessing patient’s medical history.

I also request any internal communication (memos/emails/briefings) referencing the neutrality or independence of Cohort 1 review consultants.

The purpose of the Neurology Recall was to ensure that patients were receiving the care and treatment they required, the focus was to ensure patients had a secure diagnosis, or diagnoses, that a proper management plan was in place and that prescribing was appropriate.

The neutrality and independence of the consultants used to review patients was guaranteed as all patients were all solely patients of Dr Watt.