



**Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**

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**Paper Ref. Num. P178-2026 A**

**Note:- To be completed by HQ meeting organiser**

**Belfast Health & Social Care Trust Meeting Template Sheet (v11.25)**

**Purpose of paper**

For Oversight

If other purpose please specify

Please enter text here

Meeting TB Public

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Presenter

Peter Sloan

With / Or Kerrylee Weatherall

Date of meeting

8 January 2026

**Title of paper (Maximum of 300 characters)**

**Muckamore Abbey Hospital (MAH) Inquiry and Related Workstreams Oversight Group Update**

**Background (Maximum of 1500 characters)**

The purpose of this briefing is to inform the Trust Board of the following:

- The **MAH Inquiry Oversight Group** last met on 14 October 2025.
- At that meeting, it was noted that the MAH Inquiry was planning to issue warning letters in December 2025 to anyone/any organisation it intends to criticise or in relation to which it intends to make findings in its forthcoming report. That report is anticipated in/after March 2026.
- It was also noted that there are several separate but related streams of work ongoing within the Belfast Trust, which continue to require Director-level oversight and coordination across Directorate boundaries. These include:
  - o The Belfast Trust’s involvement in the PSNI-led MAH 2017 CCTV Investigation (Operation Turnstone)
  - o The Belfast Trust’s MAH 2017 CCTV investigations
  - o The resettlement of the remaining MAH inpatients
  - o The full decommissioning and closure of the MAH site
  - o The work to obtain clarification from the High Court in relation to the processing of complex Subject Access Requests where there is a question regarding the subject’s capacity to consent to the release or withholding of their records to the applicant



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- It was therefore agreed to review and update the MAH Inquiry Oversight Group Terms of Reference, to broaden its scope to cover these additional workstreams.
- The new **MAH Inquiry and Related Workstreams Oversight Group** met for the first time on 2 December 2025.
- The Group agreed its new **Terms of Reference** (enclosed at **Appendix 1** of this briefing paper).
- The Group also agreed that in future, it will provide a single assurance update to the Trust Board, consolidating updates that it receives from the various workstreams listed above.
- This Group will aim to meet monthly. Its next meeting is scheduled for 13 January 2026. On that basis, it intends to provide its first consolidated update report to Trust Board at the February 2026 Trust Board meeting.
- **Regarding the MAH Inquiry specifically:**
  - The MAH Inquiry issued Belfast Trust with a warning letter on 5 December 2025, with a deadline of 23 January 2026 for final response.
  - We are corresponding with the MAH Inquiry to seek clarification in relation to aspects of the warning letter and restrictions that the MAH Inquiry advises apply to it.
  - In the meantime, the Belfast Trust and our colleagues in DLS are working hard to check and address the various points raised in the warning letter, to enable the provision of a detailed response to the MAH Inquiry in January.

**Date considered at Exec Team (If Applicable)**

n/a

**Options for consideration (Maximum of 1500 characters)**

n/a

**Recommendations (Maximum of 1500 Characters)**

Trust Board is asked to:

- NOTE this update, and
- anticipate that from February 2026 onwards it will be furnished with a briefing page like this one that will append an update report from the MAH Inquiry & Related Workstreams Oversight Group, consolidating the updates that it receives from the key workstreams outlined above.

**Proposed Onward Consideration**

Next Agenda

**If other**

**Note:-**



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