

 Belfast Health and Social Care Trust caring supporting improving together		Paper Ref. Num. 2026.05.28_TBP_AgendaItem9.1_P203-2026_MuckamoreAbbeyHospitalInquiryAndRelatedWorkstreamsUpdate <i>Note:- To be completed by HQ meeting organiser</i>
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust Meeting Template Sheet (v050526)		
Title of paper (Maximum of 300 characters) MAH Inquiry and Related Workstreams Oversight Assurance Report		
Purpose of paper		For Oversight
If other purpose please specify		
Meeting TB Public		
If other meeting please specify		
Rationale for confidential consideration (if applicable)		
Presenter		Peter Sloan
Date of meeting		28.05.2026
Background (Maximum of 1500 characters) Briefing Paper: MAH Inquiry and Related Workstreams Oversight Assurance Report		
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 are asked to note the update report		
Proposed Onward Consideration		Remove from Agenda
If other		

Note:-

Any papers accompanying this template should not exceed 10 pages in length.

Please ensure when submitting papers that

- (1) Orientation of paper is set so that the content of the paper can be read*
- (2) Embedded documents should be [provided a separate attachments*
- (3) Append any papers to this coversheet starting on the next page*

Insert/Copy/Paste any additional information from this point

MEETING ASSURANCE REPORT

Reporting to: Committee / Group	Trust Board
Date of Meeting	28.05.2026

Reporting from: Committee / Group	MAH Inquiry & Related Workstreams Oversight Group
Date of Meeting	14.04.2026 (via MS Teams) & 12.05.2026 (dealt with on paper)
Chair	Jennifer Welsh
Lead Officer / Author of this Report	Sara Templer
Meeting Administrator	Gerald Murray

Purpose of this report
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide Trust Board with assurance that the workstreams overseen by the MAH Inquiry and Related Workstreams Oversight Group are progressing and relevant risks and issues arising are being identified and managed.</p> <p>CONTEXT</p> <p>The MAH Inquiry & Related Workstreams Oversight Group comprises key members of the Executive Team and the Directors with responsibility for each workstream.</p> <p>It was established on 02.12.2025, replacing the previous MAH Inquiry Oversight Group and seeks to consolidate the following relevant work streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) MAH Inquiry (receipt of report and recommendations) b) The Belfast Trust’s involvement in the PSNI-led MAH 2017 CCTV Investigation (Op. Turnstone) c) The Belfast Trust’s MAH 2017 CCTV investigations d) The resettlement of the remaining MAH inpatients e) The full decommissioning and closure of the MAH site f) The work to seek and secure clarification from the High Court in relation to the processing of complex Subject Access Requests where there is a question regarding capacity to consent g) DOH Oversight of Adult Safeguarding & Complaints at MAH

Agenda items covered at the meeting

[Bullet list agenda items]

Standing agenda:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Action Notes of previous meeting
4. Action Log (Table 3 Action notes) / Matters Arising
5. Workstream Updates:
 - i. MAH Inquiry (Co-Director for Risk & Governance)
 - ii. Operation Turnstone PSNI-led CCTV Investigation (Executive Director of Social Work)
 - iii. DOH Oversight of Adult Safeguarding & Complaints at MAH (as above)
 - iv. MAH 2017 CCTV HR Investigations – (Co-Director of Human Resources)
 - v. MAH Resettlement (Director of Mental Health, Intellectual Disability, and Psychological Services)
 - vi. Decommissioning & Closure of MAH (as above)
 - vii. Complex Subject Access Requests (Co-Director for Risk & Governance)
6. Confirmation of information to be reported to Trust Board
7. Any Other Business
8. Date of next meeting

Documents reviewed and/or approved

[State if approval/ratification required from another Committee/Group]

14.04.2026

There was a detailed discussion of each workstream update report listed at (5) (i)-(vii) in the agenda, and the relevant Director/Co-Director provided responses to all questions arising.

12.05.2026

Each workstream update report listed at (5) (i)-(vii) in the agenda has been reviewed on paper to produce this summary assurance report for Trust Board.

Important items discussed requiring attention *(such as new assurances identified, progress with actions to close gaps in control or assurance, potential areas of non-compliance)*

[Identify as above and describe any actions and next steps agreed]

14.04.2026

Workstream (i) - MAH Inquiry

- MAH Inquiry process is nearing conclusion, with the final report expected in latter part of June 2026. Responses to warning letters have now been completed and submitted. The Trust will now turn to preparing carefully for receipt of the report and recommendations, acknowledging that a key risk is the amplification of reputational damage.

Workstream (ii) - Operation Turnstone (PSNI-led MAH 2017 CCTV Investigation)



- Belfast Trust Family Liaison Social Workers (FLSWs or 'FLOs') continue to support families affected.
- As agreed, Belfast Trust staff are attending ongoing Magistrates' and Crown Court proceedings, as a gesture of acknowledgement of the impact on service users and families, and to ensure close monitoring of proceedings.
- Preparatory work is ongoing to invite direct engagement with families of former patients who are identified in the CCTV footage used to process HR investigations and disciplinary cases, to offer them an update on the progress of those processes, and with an emphasis on listening to the families/carers. A letter has been prepared to issue to the identified families, and the team planning to meet with them is preparing for those meetings.

Workstream (iii) - DOH Oversight of Adult Safeguarding & Complaints at MAH

- Ongoing Departmental oversight, information sharing process is currently under review.
- Intellectual Disability Services are actively working to improve how they communicate with families in this context and develop a more outcomes-focused approach. This work will be joined up with the central Complaints Department; will include regular scheduled meetings with families to help address issues swiftly and effectively; recognises the emotional impact on all involved; acknowledges the resource impact on staff; and will involve engagement with the Ombudsman to ensure transparency and appropriateness of any new approach.

Workstream (iv) - MAH 2017 CCTV HR Investigations

- Significant work ongoing which is being closely monitored and managed. The Formal Disciplinary Investigation Case Status summary was noted, along with an update on PPS decisions.

Workstream (v) - MAH Resettlement

- It was noted that four patients remain on site.
- Hopeful that further progress will be made in the coming weeks; this is closely managed and monitored by the service

Workstream (vi) - Decommissioning & Closure of MAH

- As patient numbers reduce, clarity is still needed on responsibility for the site post-closure; the Director of Mental Health, Intellectual Disability & Psychological Services is taking forward actions in this regard.

Workstream (vii) - Complex Subject Access Requests

- The Belfast Trust application seeking direction as to how such cases should be properly handled remains open with the High Court, next listed for hearing week commencing 20 April 2026. All stakeholders with open SARs have been kept updated.

12.05.2026

Workstream (i) - MAH Inquiry

- MAH Inquiry has written to the Trust advising that it plans to release previously unpublished documents online before releasing its final report. These include historic Trust Board minutes, an

older RQIA report, DSF report extracts, CCTV-related correspondence, and Assurance Committee minutes. The team are considering these closely, for any issues/concerns around their publication.

Workstream (ii) - Operation Turnstone (PSNI-led MAH 2017 CCTV Investigation)

- Update letters to specific families offering meetings about the internal HR investigations have now been delivered and face-to-face meetings have subsequently been requested by a number of families. Work is underway to arrange and facilitate these.
- Staff are continuing intensive liaison support around court processes; contracts for family liaison staff have been extended to December 2026.
- Key risks arise from media attention, legal representation at meetings, family distress, and reputational damage to the Trust. Controls include an agreed media strategy, director-approved FAQs, senior communications support, and the above referenced family liaison staff supporting families through court proceedings.

Workstream (iii) - DOH Oversight of Adult Safeguarding & Complaints at MAH

- Weekly assurance process is in place to monitor adult safeguarding referrals and complaints at MAH, following concerns raised through Muckamore Departmental Assurance Group and the Support and Intervention Framework escalation process.
- The close scrutiny of MAH safeguarding processes includes weekly oversight meetings, pre-meets, a quality-assured database, and regular complaints tracking.
- Complaints focus on finance, medical care, and care planning/activity schedules; responses are being prepared.
- Activity is ongoing but contained, with only 2 patients remaining in MAH, no additional matters highlighted, and no decisions required at this stage.

Workstream (iv) - MAH 2017 CCTV HR Investigations

- Significant work ongoing which continues to be closely monitored and managed. Two disciplinary investigations have concluded since previous meeting.

Workstream (v) - MAH Resettlement

Two patients remain on site. Further progress is expected in the weeks ahead. This is being closely managed by the service, with Departmental oversight.

Workstream (vi) - Decommissioning & Closure of MAH

Decommissioning of Muckamore Abbey hospital

The Muckamore Abbey Hospital site continues to contract, with wards closing as patients are resettled. Regarding inpatient services: 2 wards remain open. Security presence has been increased (24 hr from November 2025). Burglar alarms and external CCTV is in place for the whole site.

Following closure of the inpatient service, the site will be managed by the Strategic Planning Directorate, with buildings being maintained in line with processes used for all vacant properties.

The Health Estates Asset Realisation Team (Department of Health) are considering future use of the site.

Workstream (vii) - Complex Subject Access Requests

- High Court application remains live, with the hearing still scheduled for 15 May 2026. The Trust is seeking to oppose any delay to September because multiple subject access requests are on hold pending the court outcome.
- The main current risk is growing frustration from applicants and families waiting for records. To mitigate this, the Trust has put in place regular communications and a single point of contact to ensure consistency.

Decisions made / approvals given

14.04.2026

Prepare assurance report for next available Trust Board public meeting.

12.05.2026

N/A

New risks identified, including controls and mitigating actions discussed

14.04.2026

No new risks were identified at this meeting; the group considered previously identified risks and discussed the controls and mitigating actions in place.

12.05.2026

MAH Inquiry plans to release previously unpublished documents online before releasing its final report. Work is ongoing to review these documents closely and consider any potential issues/concerns around their publication. Work is also underway now to prepare for the receipt of the report and recommendations.

Items referred / escalated to another Committee or Group

[Identify the name of the receiving forum and detail the recommendation made]

None identified.

Any other matters to highlight

None identified.

Recommendations

Trust Board is asked to note this update

/ ENDS

