



Patient and Client Council
5th Floor, 12 -22 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BS

29th June 2026

By Email

[REDACTED]

Ref: FOI 2823

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your Freedom of Information request received by the Patient and Client Council (PCC) on 29th May 2026 in which you requested information relating to the appointment of members to the Gender Identity Review Group and the Gender Identity Liaison Panel:

A copy of any register of interests, declarations of interest, or conflict of interest forms completed by members of:

- a) the Gender Identity Review Group; and**
- b) the Gender Identity Liaison Panel.**

Copies of any guidance, criteria, scoring frameworks, or selection documentation used by the Department or the Patient and Client Council when assessing applicants for these positions.

Copies of any correspondence between the Department of Health and the Patient and Client Council relating to:

- a) the recruitment process;**
- b) the criteria for appointment; and**
- c) the desired representation or balance of stakeholders on the panels.**

Copies of any equality screening, impact assessments or governance documents relating to the establishment or membership of the Gender Identity Review Group or Gender Identity Liaison Panel.”

Please find the response enclosed and below:

I should advise that the PCC only hold information pertaining to the third point above.

Furthermore, it should be noted that information relating to completed application forms has not been provided as this information relates to identifiable individuals (including applicants, shortlisted candidates, (or panel members where not already publicly declared), and constitutes personal data which would be exempt under s40(2) of the FOIA. Protection Act 2018.

In this case, disclosure of candidate-level information (such as names, applications, assessment outcomes, or other identifying details):

- Would not meet the requirements of lawful, fair, and transparent processing under Article 5(1)(a) UK GDPR;
- Would be inconsistent with the reasonable expectations of individuals who submitted their details for a recruitment or appointment process; and
- Could cause unwarranted intrusion into the privacy of those individuals, particularly where they were not appointed or where their involvement was not intended to be in the public domain.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the PCC, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to The Business Services Organisation (BSO), which provides an Information Governance service on our behalf:

Post: Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

Email: foi.bso@hscni.net

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PCC has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland
10th Floor
Causeway Tower
9 James Street South

Belfast
BT2 8DN

Telephone: 0303 123 1114

Email: ni@ico.org.uk

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Murphy', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Business and Governance Manager
Patient and Client Council