

National Preventive Mechanism – Northern Ireland Subgroup Meeting

Minutes

Date: 09/12/25



In attendance:

RL	Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland	Chair
JDu	Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland	
ME	Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland	
BS	Independent Monitoring Boards	
JDe	Independent Monitoring Boards	
DI	Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme	
JP	Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority	
NM	Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority	
WM	Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority	
MK	UK NPM	
JK	UK NPM	
SR	UK NPM	Minutes
EM	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	
JM	Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People	

Apologies:

MM	Northern Ireland Policing Board Independent Custody Visiting Scheme
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1 Welcome and apologies

RL led a round of introductions to introduce **MK** and **DI** to the subgroup.

2 Approval of September Minutes for publication

All approved the minutes of the Subgroup meeting of 16 September and agreed to publication on the NPM's website. **SR** to publish the minutes on the NPM website.

3 Matters arising

Agreements and actions from the Subgroup meeting of 16 September 2025 were discussed, and closed, added to the agenda, or added to the actions of this meeting.

JK to set up a call with **JP/SR/MK** regarding feeding RQIA's reports into the UK NPM's reporting Dashboard.

RL confirmed that the next Subgroup meeting will be hosted at the Stormont Estate. **RL** asked the Subgroup to get in touch if any suggestions for additions to the workplan.

4 Subgroup member updates – Q & A

RQIA colleagues updated the Subgroup on the timeline for the upcoming State of the Nation report and shared that the organisation is now receiving notifications when reports of serious adverse incidents are published, due to a good relationship with the Prisoner Ombudsman (PO), though there is inconsistency across the HSC Trusts.

CJI and **RQIA** colleagues updated the Subgroup on the inspection of Magilligan Prison.

IMBNI colleagues discussed the recent flu outbreak at Hydebank Wood, noting that IMBs temporarily suspended monitoring activity due to underlying conditions. The Subgroup discussed the possibility of introducing contingency arrangements during flu season. **ME** agreed to contact the Chair of Hydebank IMB to discuss and offer support from CJI if required.

DI confirmed to the Subgroup that no announcement had yet been made regarding the Northern Ireland Policing Board's new appointment of a Human Rights Advisor.

5 NPM Northern Ireland Subgroup Workplan

5.a Deaths and Serious adverse incidents in detention

RL shared that CJI now receives Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) management reports from prisons and is putting this data into spreadsheets. This includes information around deaths in custody, self-harm, serious adverse incidents, deaths after custody, but does not include information around court custody. CJI colleagues shared that they are receiving routine notifications from PO of deaths in custody or shortly after release, noting a collaborative approach from the PO. CJI noted no progress with obtaining data from Woodlands JJC, though there is positive engagement with the PSNI police custody team, with management data sharing a possibility, pending data sharing agreement.

RL to contact **WM** regarding viewing RQIA's data tracker.

ME to check with NIPS if a similar format of data [to data for prisons] is available for court custody.

ME to present an overview of the data received from prisons and its trends at next Subgroup meeting. **RQIA** to nominate a representative to do the same.

The next Subgroup meeting will consider how best to use the data received.

5.b Personality disorder in detention

RL updated the Subgroup that the event on personality disorder in detention will now take place in May, and that planning is ongoing. **WM** updated that she had met with Dr Mandy Irvine and will soon speak with Mick Burns. **JDe** shared updates regarding prison speakers, noting that the prison service is not keen on a “walkthrough” of a CSU unit, but some officers are willing to speak about supporting prisoners with personality disorder. **DI** suggested that there may be a volunteer among the nurses in police custody, as well as a Custody Inspector in Belfast.

JK to coordinate meeting in January with **WM/RL** to finalise the date, speaker invitations and invite participants.

5.c Prisoners over tariff

The Subgroup agreed to **JK**'s amendment to the briefing regarding children sentenced to an ECS.

ME raised the issue of those who are subject to deportation at the end of their sentence, as the Tariff-Expired Removal Scheme does not extend to NI. There are issues of foreign national offenders (FNOs) serving indeterminate sentences in NI as they are deemed unsuitable to progress through usual testing routes by the Prison Service. There is a bespoke testing system in place for one individual, but there are concerns that there are several FNOs who are in a similar position.

The Subgroup discussed that it would be useful to understand the pathway of pre-release testing and parole in different UK nations.

JK/SR to look at comparable legal bases on prisoners over tariff in immigration detention in Scotland, Wales and England.

RL/ME to share judicial review information with **JK**.

5.d Children's bail and accommodation

The Subgroup discussed the recipients of the letter on the Justice Bill drafted by **JK** and final edits, deciding that it would go to the Clerks to the Committees of Health and Justice to request that they are presented to the Chair and Committee Member and to the Ministers for Health and Justice separately. The Subgroup offered amendments to the letter.

RL shared an email from **MM** detailing issues of access to records for ICVs. The Subgroup discussed the possibility of including this issue in the letter. As NIHRC has no public position on this issue, it was suggested that that the issue be raised, acknowledging the impact on the work of the NIPB ICVS and encouraging a swift resolution rather than the group as a whole making a specific request in the letter.

JK to amend draft Justice Bill letter, with wording sent from **JM**.

ALL to send any final amendments to Justice Bill letter by 17 December.

RL/JK to circulate final draft Justice Bill letter.

RL to discuss access to records issues with **MM**.

6 RQIA's state of the nation report

Covered in member updates.

7 IMB guidance, training and recruitment

JDe updated the Subgroup, noting a recent meeting with DoJ regarding the next IMBNI recruitment campaign, which focussed on process and panel rather than IMBNI's recruitment policies. There is not yet a strategy for recruiting extra monitors. **JDe** suggested keeping a watching brief of this issue rather than taking any direct action.

ALL to share details of IMBNI recruitment drive on social media when it occurs.

8 AOB

1. **SR** to send placeholders for 2026 meetings (provisionally: 10 March, 9 June, 8 September, 8 December). **ALL** to let **JK/SR** know of any clashes with 2026 meeting dates as soon as possible. **RL** to book room for March meeting.
2. **JDe** raised the issue of the IMB not being notified of judicial reviews. **JDu** highlighted the importance of being clear about asks and expectations, particularly regarding current or ongoing actions.

Task	Lead	Status
SR to publish minutes [from 16 September] on NPM website.	SR	Complete
JK to set up a call with JP/SR/MK regarding feeding RQIA's reports into the UK NPM's reporting Dashboard	JK	
RL to contact WM regarding viewing RQIA's data tracker	RL	
ME to check if a similar format of data [to data for prisons] is available for court custody.	ME	
ME to present an overview of the data received from prisons and its trends at next Subgroup meeting.	ME	
RQIA to nominate a representative to [present on data at next Subgroup meeting].	RQIA	
JK to coordinate meeting in January [re: Personality Disorder event] with WM/RL to finalise the date, speaker invitations and invite participants.	JK	
JK/SR to look at comparable legal bases on prisoners over tariff in immigration detention in Scotland, Wales and England.	JK/SR	
RL/ME to share judicial review information [regarding immigration case] with JK	RL/ME	Hai Zhang and SSHD, MOJ & DOJ E&W 0.pdf
JK to amend draft Justice Bill letter, with wording sent from JM	JK/JM	
ALL to send any final amendments to Justice Bill letter by 17 December	ALL	
RL/JK to circulate final draft Justice Bill letter	RL/JK	
RL to discuss issues of ICV access to records issues with MM	RL/MM	
ALL to share details of IMBNI recruitment drive on social media when it occurs.	All	
SR to send placeholders for 2026 meetings.	SR	Complete
ALL to let JK/SR know of any clashes with 2026 meeting dates as soon as possible	All	
RL to book room for March meeting.	RL	Complete - Block 5 Conference Room, Knockview Buildings, Stormont Estate