

A number of concerns were raised with the Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) in October 2017 under the HSC Whistleblowing policy.

The Directorate of Legal Services (DLS), acting on the instruction of the HSCB, advised the Inquiry Chair at a very early stage that these concerns had been received, that they would be investigated, and that the Inquiry Chair would be advised of the outcome.

The HSCB, through DLS, kept the Inquiry Chair informed of progress throughout the investigation process, and provided a summary on 30th November 2017 of the outcome of the investigation.

On 18th January, the Inquiry Chair requested the draft investigation report, the final report and supporting documentation. The draft and final reports were sent to the Inquiry on 19th January.

The HSCB's investigation was carried out under the Whistleblowing policy which was developed to comply with the Public Interest Disclosure (NI) Order 1998. Under this policy an assurance is provided that the Whistleblower's identity will not be disclosed, without consent, **'unless required by law'**. Furthermore, the HSCB was mindful of its duty of care to its staff, in particular the welfare and wellbeing of those staff who participated in the investigation process.

Therefore the HSCB expressed its concerns that providing supporting documentation would inevitably lead to the identification of the Whistleblower and other members of staff.

As a result, the Inquiry Chair on 23rd January issued a statutory notice (a requirement by law) and the HSCB then provided the requested documents.

The HSCB will continue to co-operate fully with the Inquiry.