

From: [Conlon, Bernie \(IHRD\)](#)
To: [Ross, Leanne](#)
Subject: FW: Information on referrals from Northern Ireland
Date: 12 September 2016 09:50:26
Attachments: [gmc table.pdf](#)
[INQ-4487-13 - NMC to BMCL in response to BMCL-0130-13 re reporting of incidents - 30-09-13.PDF](#)

Bernie Conlon
Secretary to Inquiry

From: Conlon, Bernie (IHRD)
Sent: 22 August 2016 15:58
To: 'jackie.smith@nmc-uk.org'
Cc: Ross, Leanne
Subject: Information on referrals from Northern Ireland

Dear Ms Smith,
I am Secretary to the Hyponatraemia Inquiry in Northern Ireland.
In September 2013 you responded to the Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry (copy attached) following a request for information on the number of referrals to NMC from Northern Ireland. At that time you were unable to provide a detailed breakdown of referrals from Northern Ireland. A similar request was made at that time of the GMC. We are updating our information at present in preparation for the Chairman's report and have been provided with information from GMC (copy attached). I would be grateful if you could let me if NMC could provide similar information.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Bernie Conlon
Secretary to Inquiry

From the Chief Executive and Registrar

NMC Nursing &
Midwifery
Council



Mr Brian McLoughlin
Assistant Solicitor to the Inquiry
Arthur House
41 Arthur Street
Belfast
BT1 4GB

30 September 2013

Dear Mr McLoughlin

I am writing in response to your letter to my office dated 14 August 2013 in which you asked for more information about the Nursing and Midwifery Council's Fitness to Practise work, particularly in relation to nurses and midwives registered in Northern Ireland. I am very sorry that this information is coming to you somewhat later than your initial deadline. I do hope that this has not impacted to any significant degree on your work or that of colleagues on the Inquiry.

Along with the other UK healthcare professional regulators, the NMC has experienced a significant recent increase in our Fitness to Practise (FtP) workload in the recent past due to the increased rate of FtP referrals to us. Some recent high profile failures of care - and their reports in the media - may have encouraged the public, nurses, midwives and others to be more willing to challenge poor standards of care. Additionally, patients and the public are becoming increasingly aware of the existence of statutory regulation and its public protection purpose. The unprecedented 48 percent increase in Fitness to Practise referrals against nurses and midwives working in the UK since 2009-2010 was a significant factor in the decision by our Council taken in 2012 to increase the registration fee from £76 to £100.

There are currently over 673,000 nurses and midwives working in the UK. Of these, 23,000 are registered in Northern Ireland - three percent of the total number on the register. In 2012/2013, we received 94 referrals of nurses and midwives in Northern Ireland, which accounted for three percent of the total number of referrals in the UK.

By way of comparison, there are 34,500 nurses and midwives in Wales - five percent of the total number of registrants. In Wales, we received 183 referrals, which accounts for six percent of the total number on the register.

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The nursing and midwifery regulator for England,
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Registered charity in England and Wales (1091434) and in Scotland (SC030362)

You had asked us for a more detailed breakdown of the information about referrals from Northern Ireland. However, I am afraid that our historic information in this area is somewhat limited and I would be concerned about sharing it with you without undertaking more work to assure myself of its robustness. This would mean an additional delay to responding to you. In any case, our information, particular in the earlier years of the period that you are interested in would only provide a partial picture of referrals from Northern Ireland. I am happy to progress work this but would attach a significant caveat to the robustness of the information.

Once again, thank you for contacting me and apologies for the delay in responding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jackie Smith
Chief Executive and Registrar

Table of data of fitness to practise complaints 2007 to 2015

(1) The updated data as requested:

Year	Total triages	# from all trusts	# from all drs	# from all non-GPs	# from NI trusts	# from NI drs	# from NI non-GPs
2007	5213	361	391	270	16	8	8
2008	5084	378	356	245	14	1	1
2009	5729	597	435	283	12	5	4
2010	7130	853	495	327	11	4	4
2011	8775	835	656	449	15	12	11
2012	10336	1090	702	495	19	10	10
2013	9859	707	735	728	14	8	8
2014	9623	571	690	668	8	7	7
2015	9385	554	709	700	16	12	12

NB: Please be aware that **there are slight variations in the figures from 2007-2012**. This will be down to complaints being re triaged (thereby changing the year), and data cleansing (such as trust or complainant details being changed, or errors being deleted).

(2) The numbers of the triages from the above table that have so far ended with an MTP hearing:

Year	Total triages	# from all trusts	# from all drs	# from all non-GPs	# from NI trusts	# from NI drs	# from NI non-GPs
2007	276	87	20	11	4	0	0
2008	263	92	18	10	1	0	0
2009	307	107	24	13	2	0	0
2010	230	90	19	14	2	0	0
2011	254	96	24	19	4	3	3
2012	234	79	31	18	3	1	1
2013	247	81	17	17	0	0	0
2014	139	44	10	10	0	0	0
2015	17	6	4	3	0	0	0

NB: **Some of these triages are still being investigated** (especially the recent ones) and so may ultimately end up in a hearing.