

From the Deputy Secretary, Social Services Policy Group/  
Chief Social Work Officer  
Mr Seán Holland



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

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Date: 28 October 2016

Ms Pauline Shepherd  
Chair/CEO ihcp  
32 Inishmore  
Killyleagh  
**DOWNPATRICK**  
**BT30 9TP**

Dear Pauline

Thank you for your letter of 24 October requesting an update on the Reform of Adult Care and Support.

As you are aware from my letter of 6 July, the previous meeting of the Project Board was postponed because of disappointing progress and it was my intention to consider additional measures to ensure that the Spring 2017 timescale for consultation was met.

Over the summer period I met with the Minister to discuss how best this could be achieved. A new way forward has been agreed in principle and, to that end, we intend to make a significant announcement in the coming weeks. As a number of administrative tasks have yet to be completed I'm unable to provide detail on these developments at this point but I will, of course, advise the Project Board once these tasks are complete.

Whilst acknowledging delays to date, I am confident that forthcoming developments will strongly assist our ability to deliver proposals for change by Spring 2017. Our continued commitment to this key piece of work is demonstrated by its inclusion as one of the key Transformation actions in the Minister's vision 'Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together'.

In terms of the Strategic Partnership Forum, the Forum is intended to promote engagement specifically within the HSC. That said, the Minister recognises the importance of engagement with the independent sector and, to that end, I look forward to working more closely with you and the Project Board in the coming months.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

**SEÁN HOLLAND**  
Chief Social Work Officer/Deputy Secretary

