

Meetings between the Social Services Inspectorate and Nursing Homes Ireland

A Statement of Understanding

The meetings between the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI) are held in the interests of safety and quality of life of those living in designated centres for older people. The Statement of Understanding between HIQA and NHI is based on a mutual recognition of the importance of raising and maintaining standards through efficient and effective practice of registered providers and the Regulator.

The Statement of Understanding recognises the statutory remit of HIQA as an independent regulator and NHI as a representative organisation for the private and voluntary nursing home sector. This recognition will be respected in the interests of the quality agenda for service delivery.

Mutual areas of understanding for the meetings between HIQA and NHI:

1. The meetings will be a platform for two-way communication between NHI and HIQA on matters relating to Registration and Inspection of Residential Care Centres.
2. NHI will be provided with a formal forum to represent the collective voice/ views of the private and voluntary nursing home sector.
3. The meetings provide a forum to examine and address issues regarding registration and inspection to improve mutual understanding.
4. Information can be shared by the Inspectorate on the developments in registration and emerging themes from inspections including processes, outcomes and findings, e.g. What has been done well? What areas require improvement?
5. The meetings will enable NHI to discuss and clarify requirements set out by the Inspectorate, including the interpretation of, and the consistent application of the relevant regulations and standards and where appropriate make suggestions on the processes and/ or communication methods utilised by the inspectorate.
6. The exchange of information will enhance and support the positive working relationship between both organisations to promote confidence in the regulation and delivery of residential care services, among providers and the wider public, with the overall aim of augmenting the quality of care for older people.

Meetings will be held every 2 months.