



Department of

Health, Social Services and Public Safety

AN ROINN

Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND GUARDIAN AD LITEM AGENCY

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is seeking to appoint four non-executive members to the board of the Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Agency (NIGALA) from 1 August 2005.

NIGALA was established by the then Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) under powers contained in the Health and Personal Social Services (Special Agencies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990. The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 established the general principle that the welfare of the child will be the Court's paramount consideration in legal decisions involving children. NIGALA's role is to safeguard and promote the interests of children by providing independent social work investigation and advice to the Court in specified proceedings and to provide effective representation of children's views and interests. NIGALA is run by a board consisting of a non-executive Chair, an Executive Director, and four non-executive members, who are appointed with the approval of the Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Non-executive members will be expected to devote on average 1-2 days per month to the appointment, for which they receive annual remuneration of £2,634.

Qualifications and experience

No specific qualifications are required. However, successful candidates will have to demonstrate that they meet five standard essential criteria, as set out in the Information Pack. In addition, it would be desirable for candidates to have experience in at least one of the following areas-

- Business, Finance and Accountancy, Governance or Audit;
- Legal Services, or working in relation to children's rights;
- Social Services, particularly, professionally qualified social workers with experience in child welfare work;
- Academic work in relation to children in care or children's rights;
- Working in a voluntary/community capacity, particularly in relation to children's services.

Or experience that would help bring an appreciation of user/carer needs to the decision-making of the Agency.

Expressions of interest

For further information about the appointments and a nomination form, please contact **Public Appointments Unit, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, D1, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SQ, tel: (028) 9052 3250, text phone: (028) 9052 8343, fax: (028) 9052 3206 or e-mail: public.appointments@dhsspsni.gov.uk, quoting reference: NIGALA 1/05.** Information Packs and Nomination forms can be provided in other formats and candidates who require assistance will be facilitated on request. Nominees invited for interview will be eligible for reimbursement of reasonable travelling expenses.

Completed nomination forms must be returned to the above address on or before Friday, 13 May 2005. Nominations received after this date will not be accepted by the Department.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is committed to the principles of public appointments based on merit with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process. Political activity will not be a criterion for appointment. The Department is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all nominees. Nominations are welcomed regardless of sex, disability, religion or political opinion. Women are currently under-represented in bodies sponsored by the Department and nominations from women would therefore be particularly welcome.



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