

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

WITH THE

**Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
An Roinn Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí
Poustie, Resydènter Heisin an Fowk Siccar**

LEGAL MEMBER OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) is seeking an experienced legal professional to serve as a member of the Mental Health Commission for Northern Ireland (“the Commission”).

Role of the Commission

The Commission was established by the Department under powers contained in the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. It is responsible for keeping under review the care and treatment of patients with a mental disorder.

Board of the Commission

Membership of the Commission is made up of a Chair and 18 members, all of whom are part-time. It comprises a Chair, 1 Legal Member, 4 Consultant Psychiatrist Members, 2 Nurse Members, 2 Social Work Members, 1 Clinical Psychologist Member, 1 General Practitioner Member, 1 Allied Health Professional Member and 6 Lay Members, including, where possible, 2 user members, 2 carer members and 2 members able to demonstrate an interest in mental health/learning disability.

Members are appointed with the approval of the DHSSPS Minister in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland. The Commission is accountable to DHSSPS for the effective performance of its role. At present, Commission members are each spending an average of 18 days per year on Commission business, but the work commitment of individual members may vary according to Committee membership. Members each receive session fees payable at the rate of £208.00 per day and are eligible to claim allowances for travel and subsistence costs necessarily incurred on Commission business.



Qualifications and Experience

The Legal Member must be either a **qualified Solicitor or Barrister-at-Law who is entitled to practice in Northern Ireland. He/she must have at least 5 years experience in practice and have some experience of mental health legislation in Northern Ireland.**

He/she will also have to meet five standard essential criteria, namely -

- **making an impact with others**
- **committing to the member role**
- **thinking strategically**
- **analytical thinking**
- **learning and self-development.**

Expressions of Interest

If you have the relevant qualifications and experience and feel you could make a positive contribution to the work of the Commission, please write or telephone for an application form and further details about the appointment, quoting reference number

MHC 3/07 (LEGAL) to:

Public Appointments Unit

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

D1, Castle Buildings

Stormont Estate

BELFAST

BT4 3SQ

Telephone : (028) 9052 3250 Fax: (028) 9052 3206 Textphone: (028) 9052 8343

E-Mail: public.appointments@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Application forms can be provided in other formats and candidates who require assistance will be facilitated on request. Applicants invited for interview will be eligible for reimbursement of reasonable travelling expenses.

Completed application forms must be received at the above address on or before 12.00 noon on Friday 18 January 2008. Applications received after the closing 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. The Department is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all applicants. Expressions of interest are welcomed regardless of age, gender, disability, religion, ethnic origin, political opinion, sexual orientation or whether or not you have dependants.



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