

19th November 2025

To: Mr. Neil Guckian, Chief Executive, Western Health and Social Care Trust
Cc: Dr. Tom Frawley, Chairman, Western Health and Social Care Trust

Open Letter: Meeting with WHSCT on 21st November 2025

Dear Neil,

Thank you for your letter of 18th November 2025.

We write to confirm that the SOAS Committee is still prepared to meet with the Trust on 21st November, provided the meeting proceeds in accordance with the original agreed agenda and other arrangements, necessary for openness and transparency, outlined in our letter of 2nd November.

We are disappointed both in the content and the tone of your letter. We must also state that we fundamentally disagree with, and challenge, your assertion that the current clinical pathways are working appropriately.

The Minister for Health Mike Nesbitt asked the Trust to act quickly to restore public confidence – unilaterally changing an agreed agenda only undermines that goal.

Your suggestion that this would be our first meeting is simply inaccurate – you met with us yourself along with others on your WHSCT executive team on 10th March in Belfast, alongside the Department of Health, where we presented the SOAS Roadmap.

We do need written confirmation of your acceptance of these arrangements no later than 5pm today – Wednesday 19th November. This is necessary to allow proper facilitation of the meeting by council officials and to enable arrangements for live streaming to proceed. If confirmation is not received, we will understand that the Trust does not want to meet based on the previously agreed agenda. That would be unfortunate but a matter for the WHSCT.

SOAS is ready and willing to meet with the Trust on the 21st November, based on the original agreed terms – which we are confident has the backing of the public and all sectors of our community.

Yours sincerely

Helen Hamill (secretary)

SOAS Committee