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Date: 16 August 2024

Dear Independent Health and Care Providers,

LETTER FROM CHIEF PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

You will be aware of the recent disturbing events within our communities and the impact that they have had on the health and social care workforce across Northern Ireland.

The health and social care system in Northern Ireland is, and will continue to be, a place of welcome and support for all, regardless of culture, ethnicity, or background, and we are disgusted by the despicable and violent scenes of recent days.

We are angered that this behaviour has left some staff feeling anxious, frightened, and unwelcome. We want to reassure those staff that this behaviour is not representative of the vast majority of the people who live here.

The diversity within our committed and dedicated independent health and social care workforce should be embraced and celebrated. Much has been said about the hugely valuable contribution that internationally educated and recruited colleagues and friends make to our independent health and social care services, and that point cannot be overstated.

They come together day in and day out to provide kind and compassionate care to our sick and most vulnerable, irrespective of background, providing vital support across our health and social care system. Indeed, that contribution stands in stark contrast to the behaviour of those behind this recent violence.

We are the richer for our diverse and multicultural workforce, not only professionally, but within our communities right across Northern Ireland. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and to live in a safe environment free from harm and intimidation.

We therefore condemn and stand against this deplorable racist behaviour and express our full support to all staff within our independent health and social care sector.

To those staff feeling vulnerable at this time, please reach out for help through your employers if you need it. We strive to provide good pastoral care for all our international recruits.

Yours Sincerely,



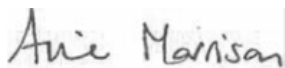
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