

## List of documents – Covid-19 Public Inquiry Module 2c

### Submissions

#### 2020

Letter to Permanent Secretary 160620 FINAL – This related to the creation of the Management Board, through temporary changes to the HSC Framework Document

UNISON Submission to DoH review Covid-19 and care homes July 2020 FINAL – This was the UNISON submission to the DoH Rapid Learning Initiative on Covid-19 and care homes

UNISON NI Stakeholder Engagement Feedback Template Final Aug 2020 – This was a submission to HSCB/PHA regarding the Draft Covid-19 Care Home Action Plan Phase 2

Response to Department of Education on 'New School Day' guidance 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – A response to DE officially sensitive draft guidance on schools reopening

Response to DoH Surge Planning Strategic Framework JP Clayton 110920 – This was a submission John Patrick Clayton was invited to make as a member of the Transformation Advisory Board on the DoH Surge Planning Strategic Framework

UNISON Response to DoH Consultation on HSC framework document Dec 2020 FINAL – This was the UNISON response to the subsequent consultation exercise undertaken by DoH after the Management Board had been established.

#### 2021

Letter to Emma Sheerin MLA re Bill of Rights survey response 050221 FINAL - This submission made reference to the Bill of Rights acting as a framework in order to support society in recovery from Covid-19

UNISON Response to NI Executive budget 2021 – 22 FINAL - This response highlighted ICTU 'No Going Back' campaign and NERI analysis re public spending.

UNISON Response to NI Executive draft PfG Outcomes Framework FINAL 290321 - Our response referred to 'No Going Back' and a number of areas which the PfG needed to focus on that had been highlighted by the pandemic.

UNISON TEO Covid-19 Recovery Plan Response 020721 FINAL - This was in response to invitation from the Executive Office to comment on the Recovery Plan. Raises similar points and issues to the Programme for Government response.

UNISON Northern Ireland Written Evidence to NI Affairs Committee 110621 FINAL - This related to the Committee Inquiry on these issues. Our written evidence highlighted some particular impacts of Covid-19 on black and minority ethnic workers. Nathalie Donnelly and John Patrick Clayton gave evidence to the Committee subsequently (8<sup>th</sup> September 2021)

Parental Bereavement Leave Consultation – This response made some reference to the impact of the pandemic on people being made redundant and seeking new employment, which may impact their ability to access bereavement leave.

## **2022**

Draft Housing Supply Strategy – UNISON Response 14.2.22 - This submission refers to the impact of the pandemic on affordability across all housing tenures

## **Briefing Notes**

Briefing Note Colm Gildernew 190520 (Email Record) - This briefing note was offered in advance of a Health Committee meeting with the Minister and Chief Medical Officer. It raised issues on care home testing and on pay, terms and conditions for social care workers and suggested questions on same.

UNISON Briefing for NI Health Committee 300620 - This was a briefing note for the Health Committee in advance of a session with the Health Minister, where we raised issues regarding the Management Board and suggested some questions on same.

UNISON Briefing Paper on Supporting People Programme for Communities Committee June 2021 & DFC – Personal statements – these were submitted to the Communities Committee at NI Assembly regarding the UNISON campaign on the Supporting People programme. The briefing references contribution workers have made during pandemic and impact on workforce.

## **Letters**

## **2020**

Coronavirus letter 6.3.2020 non-health and non-education employers - Letter Joe McCusker sent to non-health and non-education employers asking that they pay normal pay for anyone having to take absence due to Covid-19.

Letter sent to all employers except health and education on 13.3.2020 - Letter Joe McCusker sent similar to above.

Minister for Education 16 March 2020 and Minister for Health 16 March 2020 (Anne Speed to Minister for Education and Minister for Health) – Letter Anne Speed sent seeking information on strategy regarding school closures.

Dr Michael McBride docx (Letter from Patricia McKeown to Dr Michael McBride 23 March 2020) – Letter that outlined UNISON priorities to keep the public safe and our members safe to care for them. Raised growing concerns around the speed and trajectory of the current strategy. Raised concerns regarding contact tracing and suggested redeployment of staff

could assist. Highlighted concerns regarding care homes given events in Italy at that time, and referred to issues members had raised with UNISON on PPE. Stated that private companies should produce officially tested testing kits and equipment.

Letter to all Executive Ministers (letters are dated 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020) – Letter from Patricia McKeown to all Executive Ministers. Referred them to the letter to the CMO of 23 March and attached this. Sought engagement with UNISON regarding response to the pandemic.

Letter to Chief Medical Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 – Letter from Patricia McKeown, further to letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Letter raised issues around service re-organisation, guidance regarding PPE both in acute and community settings, and on provision of testing.

Letter to Junior Ministers, TEO, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 (Joint UNISON/RCN letter requesting high level engagement) – Letter sent by Patricia McKeown and Pat Cullen following meeting with the Junior Ministers. Sought high level joint engagement with First Minister, deputy First Minister, Health Minister and Finance Minister.

Joint UNISON RCN letter FMDFM 040520 FINAL – this letter followed on from the above, providing a suggested agenda for a meeting.

Letter to Health Minister social care 6 May 2020 – Letter from Patricia McKeown to Health Minister, further to announcement of additional funding for care homes. Sought information on how the use of such funding would be monitored, what conditions were being placed regarding treatment of staff and sought establishment of regional bargaining forum.

Letter to Sean Holland Social Care 6 May 2020 – Letter from Patricia McKeown. Raises similar issues to above, and highlighted issue of workers only receiving statutory sick pay when self-isolating.

Letter to Health Minister Social Care 19 May 2020 – Letter from Patricia McKeown further to Minister's announcement (13<sup>th</sup> May) on proposals to deal with low pay and poor terms and conditions in care homes. Sought UNISON input into proposals and reiterated call for bargaining forum.

Letter to Health Minister re TAB 030720 FINAL – Letter sent from TAB members to Health Minister seeking engagement on future role and purpose of TAB, in light of creation of Management Board.

Letter to Health Minister 240720 FINAL – Letter from Patricia McKeown to Minister further to our meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> July. Highlighted impact of Covid-19 on most deprived communities, emphasized need for a public health model and actions to tackle inequality, and highlighted need to backdate the sick pay scheme for care home workers.

Minister Conor Murphy 27 July 2020, Minister Robin Swann 27 July 2020, OFM DFM 27 July 2020 - Joint UNISON/RCN letters sent after meeting with First Minister and deputy First Minister was postponed. Set out issues such as childcare/schools re-opening, preparations for a second wave and a memorandum of understanding with Republic of Ireland, a public inquiry into care homes, and development of a future public health model.

Letter to Dr Tony Stevens 020920 FINAL - Letter from Patricia McKeown to Dr Tony Stevens as Interim Chief Executive of RQIA regarding establishing an information sharing protocol between RQIA and UNISON.

OFM DFM (letter from Patricia McKeown to FM/DFM following our meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. Letter is dated 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020) Highlights extension of Infection Control Fund in England and

£500 payment in England for those accessing benefits who cannot work from home when self-isolating.

Letter to Health Minister re Four Seasons 29 October 20 – Letter from Patricia McKeown regarding announcement of sale of Four Seasons homes in NI. Asked Minister to prepare a plan for the HSC to bring the homes into public ownership.

UNISON-RCN Letter to Health Minister 1111220 1 (re safe staffing legislation) – Joint letter from Patricia McKeown and Pat Cullen to the Health Minister raising concern at lack of progress on safe staffing legislation. Sought impetus in process and that Minister agree request for a discrete team within Department to work on legislation.

## **2021**

Letter\_BetterFinancialSupport\_ISAG\_Final (12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021) – Letter coordinated via Dr Ciara Fitzpatrick, signed by Owen Reidy for NIC-ICTU and Patricia McKeown for UNISON. Letter related to need to put in place greater financial supports for those on low incomes self-isolating to improve compliance with self-isolation.

Letter to Education Minister 110521 FINAL – Letter from Patricia McKeown to Education Minister regarding UNISON campaign for universal, nutritious, free school meals for all.

Letter to Chair Education Committee 290621 FINAL – Letter from Patricia McKeown to Chair Education Committee at NI Assembly regarding campaign for universal, nutritious, free school meals.

Letter to Health Minister 070721 FINAL – Letter from Patricia McKeown to Health Minister regarding the announced easing of Covid-19 restrictions in England. Letter raised concern if NI Executive were to follow this approach.

Letter to Alastair Campbell 230721 (Anne Speed and JP Clayton) – Letter from Anne Speed and John Patrick Clayton to Alastair Campbell, Department of Health regarding the Elective Care Framework.

Letter to Mark Lee re sick pay 040821 – Letter from Patricia McKeown to Mark Lee, Department of Health. Letter sought that Department of Health reconsider approach that would link sick pay support to vaccination status.

## **Press releases/public statements**

## **2020**

'Unison calls for immediate action on community care' 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – comments from Patricia McKeown on need for guidance and PPE for health workers in community.

'Test!, Test!, Test! – We are running out of time' 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 – highlighting concerns around testing

UNISON PRESS RELEASE 080420 ('Unison calls for immediate action on care homes affected by Covid-19') – Patricia McKeown comments on need for testing, guidance and PPE.

UNISON PRESS RELEASE 090420 – ('Unison asks public to clap for blue light services') – Dawn Emerson and John Creaney (UNISON Craigavon Hospital) comments encouraging public to join mass round of applause at 8pm.

UNISON PRESS RELEASE ('Unison demands immediate action on Covid-19 in social care') – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020, comments from Patricia McKeown

UNISON PRESS RELEASE 180420 ('Unison demands immediate testing of all residents and all staff in care homes') – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020, comments from Patricia McKeown calling for a programme of testing to be implemented for staff and residents across care homes.

UNISON PRESS RELEASE 200420 – ('Unison calls for PPE shortages guidance to be rejected') – Comments from Anne Speed on Public Health England guidance regarding PPE shortages and reuse, health unions were calling for this not to be applied in NI

'Unison asks public to clap for healthcare workers' (23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020) – statement from Conor McCarthy asking public to show support for healthcare workers.

PRESS RELEASE – MINUTES SILENCE FINAL – (24<sup>th</sup> April 2020) ('Call for minute's silence to honour all workers who have died from coronavirus') – Joint UNISON, RCN and RCM calling for a minute's silence on 28<sup>th</sup> April to remember all health, care and other key workers who lost their lives to coronavirus.

'Unison calls on Government to ensure that private care homes in receipt of £6.5m public money play fair with workers' (27<sup>th</sup> April 2020) – statement from Patricia McKeown that additional funding for sector should have conditions attached. Refers to need for a bargaining forum.

UNISON PRESS RELEASE 140520 – ('UNISON welcomes Minister Swann's recognition of our members' concerns') – Comments from Patricia McKeown further to Health Minister's comments on low pay and sick pay in care homes. Called for Forum to be convened on these issues.

UNISON PRESS RELEASE 180520 – ('UNISON welcomes Minister Swann's announcement on testing for all care home residents and staff') – Comments from Patricia McKeown welcoming introduction of testing programme, urging universal testing as soon as possible.

UNISON PRESS RELEASE 220520 ('UNISON extremely concerned by need for action at Clifton Nursing Home') – Comments from Patricia McKeown following announcement from Health Minister that residents at Clifton Nursing Home were being relocated.

UNISON PRESS RELEASE 030620 ('UNISON welcomes sick pay announcement as step in the right direction, but further action required') – Comments from Patricia McKeown on Health Minister announcement that care homes can access funding to pay staff 80% of salary when self-isolating. Called on employers to provide for 100%. Called on Minister to convene a Forum.

UNISON PRESS RELEASE – Daisy Hill Hospital 8.6.20 – ('UNISON welcomes return to Daisy Hill') – Comments from Nuala Conlon and Catherine Farrell, UNISON, regarding moves to restore emergency medicine at Daisy Hill.

Health – UNISON says Minister has right idea to rebuild services but we are concerned he is using the wrong tools – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Comments from Patricia McKeown on publication of Strategic Framework for rebuilding services and creation of Management Board.

UNISON PRESS RELEASE Downe Hospital 16.6.20 – ('UNISON cautiously welcomes return to Downe Hospital') – Comments from Nuala Conlon and Marion Ritchie regarding restoring services at the Downe Hospital.

Health – PPE Testing 190620 – ('UNISON demands answers on PPE fit testing concerns') – Patricia McKeown comments on alert on PPE fit testing.

Education – UNISON Press release Our school children and our members are being put at risk – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – Comments on schools re-opening.

UNISON Press release 130820 ('UNISON says guidance on full re-opening of schools raises more questions than answers') – Comments from Marianne Buick following publication of 'New School Day' guidance.

UNISON Press release 200820 ('UNISON warns Education Authority not to risk our members' health and safety') – Comments from Marianne Buick regarding members not being put at risk as schools re-open.

UNISON Press release 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 ('UNISON anger at failure to restore Downe Ed') – Comments from Nuala Conlon, James Large and Mario Ritchie regarding Downe ED not re-opening and instead being used as an Urgent Care Centre.

UNISON/GMB Press release 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – joint press release regarding sale of Four Seasons homes in NI, Marianne Buick (UNISON) and Alan Perry (GMB).

UNISON Press release 201020 ('UNISON welcomes extension of sick pay in care homes but assurances required') – Comments from Anne Speed regarding continuation of sick pay scheme by DoH, further to UNISON calls that it be extended.

UNISON Press release 29<sup>th</sup> October ('UNISON acknowledges gesture and stresses more to do') – Comments from Anne Speed regarding re-instatement of exemption from car parking charges for health staff.

UNISON Press release 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 ('UNISON calls on NI Executive to listen to public health advice and suppress the spread of Covid-19') – Comments from Patricia McKeown regarding Executive decisions on Covid-19 restrictions.

UNISON Press release 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 ('UNISON says NI Executive must listen to public health advice and not put further lives at risk') – Comments from Patricia McKeown regarding Executive decisions on continuing with Covid restrictions.

UNISON Press release 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 ('UNISON calls on the public to continue to support their health service') – Patricia McKeown comments on beginning of restrictions on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020, calling on public to follow restrictions and support the health service and those who work in it.

UNISON Press release 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 – ('International Day of Persons with Disabilities: UNISON calls on Northern Ireland Executive to act') – Joe McCusker comments to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Seeking greater inclusion of persons with disabilities, including in Covid-19 response and recovery.

UNISON Press release 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – ('Care Home owners failing to maintain pay for their ill and shielding staff') – Comments from Marianne Buick regarding employers not accessing the sick pay scheme for staff self-isolating.

2021

UNISON Press release 140121 ('UNISON welcomes additional Covid-19 funding for community and voluntary sector but warns long term funding is needed') – Comments from Joe McCusker welcoming Communities Minister providing additional funding for community and voluntary sector organizations via Covid-19 Community Support Fund.

UNISON Press release 200421 ('UNISON calls for universal, free, nutritious free school meals for all our children and young people') – Comments from Noreen Robinson regarding the launch of the UNISON campaign.

UNISON Press release 280421 – ('International Worker's Memorial Day') – comments from Nuala Conlon to mark International Worker's Memorial Day.

UNISON Press release 040521 ('UNISON welcomes Minister Swann's creation of a social care Fair Work Forum') – comments from Patricia McKeown on Health Minister's announcement that he intends to create a Social Care Fair Work Forum.

UNISON Press release 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – ('In response to Health Minister's statement on an Elective Care Framework') – Anne Speed comments on Minister's statement regarding waiting times and framework for elective care.

UNISON Press release 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 ('Additional funding for social care a step in the right direction, but assurances needed that it will benefit the workforce') – Comments from Anne Speed further to Health Minister announcement that £23 million being offered in funding for domiciliary care and wider social care sector to improve rates of pay. Sought engagement on this via Fair Work Forum.

UNISON Press release 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 ('International Day of Persons with Disabilities: UNISON calls on NI Executive to Act') – Joe McCusker comments to coincide with International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Calls for greater inclusion of persons with disabilities, including in Covid-19 response and recovery.

2022

UNISON Press release 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 ('Audit Report on PPE highlights efforts by health unions to protect workers and patients') – Comments from Anne Speed on NI Audit Office report on PPE.

