

As at January 2020, the Department of Health's Top Management Group consisted of:

- Richard Pengelly- DoH Permanent Secretary
- Prof. Sir Michael McBride – Chief Medical Officer - Grade 3
- Charlotte McArdle – Chief Nursing officer – Grade 5
- Deborah McNeilly – Deputy Secretary Resources & Corporate Management group – Grade 3
- Jackie Johnston – Deputy Secretary Healthcare Policy Group - Grade 3
- Sean Holland – Deputy Secretary Social Services Policy Group and Chief Social Worker – Grade 3
- Sharon Gallagher – Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning & Performance Group – Grade 3
- Dan West – Chief Digital Information Officer – Grade 3
- David Gordon – Director of Communications – Grade 5

A brief overview of each of the roles and responsibilities of the Top Management Group both before and during the pandemic is set out below;

The Permanent Secretary

Richard Pengelly Jan 2020 to 31 March 2022. Peter May 1 April 2022 to date

The Perm Sec acts as senior adviser to the Minister of Health, and to the NI Executive via the NICS Board, on the working of DoH on a daily and weekly basis including developing and delivering on policy; leading and managing people and business; delivering outcomes and innovation and driving better public services.

As Principal Accounting officer for DoH, the Permanent Secretary accounts to the NI Assembly (through the Public Accounts Committee) for the sound management of risk and public funds.

Chief Medical Officer

Professor Sir Michael McBride January 2020 to date

CMO is the most senior Health Professional within the Department and undertakes both advisory and statutory functions on behalf of DoH. He plays a key role in leading and driving strategies and policies to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.

CMO is the 'key professional advisor' to the Minister, the Permanent Secretary, and other Departments on medical matters, whilst also being responsible for ensuring the effective discharge of a number of statutory responsibilities, for example, safeguarding the health of the population in relation to communicable disease and environmental health and chemical hazards.

CMO has sponsorship responsibility for the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) and the Public Health Agency (PHA).

CNO

Charlotte McArdle Jan 2020 to 31/October 2021. Linda Kelly (interim) 1 November 2021 to 13 March 2022. NR 14 March 2022 to date

CNO is the Department's most senior advisor on Nursing and Midwifery issues and is responsible, as head of profession, for the professional leadership, performance and development of the professions in Northern Ireland, including providing support to the Department's Lead Allied Health Professions Officer. The CNO reports to the Permanent Secretary and is directly accountable to the Permanent Secretary and to the Minister for the provision of professional advice and statutory functions. They have sponsorship responsibility for the Patient Client Council (PCC) and NI Practice and Education Council for Nursing and Midwifery (NIPEC).

Deputy Secretary Resources and Corporate Management Group

Deborah McNeilly January 2020 to 7 February 2021. Chris Matthews 1 April 2022 to date

RCMG Deputy Secretary is responsible for delivering high quality corporate services to the Department. They have specific responsibility for providing financial assurance to the Minister, Permanent Secretary (Accounting Officer) and lead on other professional disciplines, including Accountability and Internal Audit teams. They have sponsorship responsibility for the NI Fire and Rescue Service and Business Services Organisation, which provide shared services functions for the HSC.

Deputy Secretary Healthcare Policy Group

Jackie Johnston January 2020 to 11 May 2021. Jim Wilkinson 12 May 2021 to date

HPG Deputy Secretary is responsible for a wide-ranging policy portfolio and for introducing new/enhanced working practices within the Healthcare Policy Group associated with the delivery of legislation and policy. They lead on securing Ministerial approval of the annual commissioning plan direction and indicators of performance Direction for the HSCB/SPPG. They also have policy responsibility for the strategic oversight and monitoring of the transformation agenda and HSC workforce issues.

They have sponsorship responsibility for the 5 HSC Trusts, NI Ambulance Service (NIAS), NI Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) and the NI Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS).

Deputy Secretary Social Services Policy Group

Sean Holland January 2020 to 31 October 2022. Peter Toogood 1 November 2022 to date

The SSPG Deputy Secretary is responsible for leading and co-ordinating a wide-ranging policy portfolio, including adult and children's social care services, mental health, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, older people and community care. They also have sponsorship responsibility for the NI Social Care Council (NISCC), which is the regulator of the social care workforce and professional social work training in Northern Ireland; the Northern Ireland Guardian Ad Litem Agency (NIGALA) and the Safeguarding Board Northern Ireland.

Deputy Secretary Strategic Planning & Performance group

Sharon Gallagher January 2020 to date

Prior to closure of the Health and Social Care Board on 31 March 2022, the postholder was Interim Chief Executive of the Board and responsible for leading the HSCB to ensure the effective discharge of its responsibilities during the transition to closure and securing the orderly dissolution of the HSCB; establishing the new Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) within the Department of Health by 1 April 2022, and ensuring the smooth transfer of specified HSCB responsibilities, functions and resources to the new Group.

As interim Chief Executive of the HSCB, the post holder was accountable to the Board of the HSCB for the efficient and effective management of the organisation and ensuring it met objectives set by the Minister and Department of Health. They were the Accounting Officer for the HSCB and in that capacity directly responsible to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for a budget of approximately £6 billion.

Following closure of the HSCB and transfer of its functions, the SPPG Deputy Secretary is setting the strategic direction and managing the transformation of the former HSCB budget and objectives. Working with Departmental colleagues and HSC Trusts, they oversee the commissioning arrangements for the provision of health and personal social services to deliver responsive, patient and client-centred services.

Chief Social Worker

Sean Holland January 2020 to 31 October 2022. Aine Morrison 1 November 2022 to date

The Chief Social Worker is directly accountable to the Permanent Secretary for the provision of professional advice, and reporting on relevant statutory functions across the range of children's and adult social services. The responsibilities involve close working with other Departments, notably DOJ, DE and TEO. They also manage the Office of Social Services (OSS), which provides a professional contribution to the

formulation and implementation of the policies of the Government Departments in respect of Social Work and Social Care Services and related social policy matters.

Chief Digital Information Officer
Dan West January 2020 to date

The CDIO is accountable for all aspects of management, governance and exploitation of digital technologies, and health & social care information collected to enhance services for staff, patients, and other service users. They also oversee the deployment of major regional systems. The CDIO managed the transition of the eHealth function from the Health and Social Care Board to the Department of Health and has ensured that the information/ data and analytics functions were resourced appropriately. The CDIO also holds the position of Senior Information Risk Owner for the Department.

Director of Communications
David Gordon January 2020 to date

The Director of Communications has responsibility for leading on all aspects of the Department's communication strategy and practice, as well as facilitating alignment in messaging across the wider NI health and social care system.

The Director works closely with the Health Minister, Special Advisor, and senior DoH Officials to ensure that the key messages, policy, and activity of the Department are communicated to the public. The post holder also has responsibility for leading the press office team and its service.

The Director reports directly to the Permanent Secretary.