
WITNESS STATEMENT OF CHRISTINA McANEA ON BEHALF OF THE TUC

I, Christina McAnea, am the General Secretary of UNISON. My office address is UNISON Centre, 130 Euston Road, London NW1 2AY.

1. I make this statement on behalf of the Trades Union Congress (the “**TUC**”) following my oral evidence in Module 6 of the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry (the “**Inquiry**”) on 8 July 2025. This statement provides further information about the registration system for social care workers in the devolved nations, at the request of the Inquiry.
2. Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have mandatory registration for all residential and domiciliary care workers [CMA/001 - INQ000548131]. Northern Ireland has required registration of residential social care staff since 2014, with domiciliary staff added from 31 March 2017 [CMA/002 - INQ000548132] [CMA/003 - INQ000548133]. Workers register with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC), which is also the regulator for the care sector. Scotland has required registration of residential social care staff since 30 September 2015, under the Registration of Social Workers and Social Service Workers in Care Services (Scotland) Regulations 2013 [CMA/004 - INQ000548134], and of domiciliary care workers since 30 September 2020 [CMA/005 - INQ000548135]. Workers register with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC), which is the regulator for the social work, social and children and young people workforce in Scotland. Wales has required registration of domiciliary care workers since 1 April 2020 [CMA/006 - INQ000548126] and of residential care workers since 1 October 2022 [CMA/007 - INQ000548127]. Workers register with Social Care Wales, which is the regulator for the social care workforce in the country.

3. While mandatory registration has come into force more recently, voluntary and mandatory registration for some sections of the social care workforce have been in place for longer. Northern Ireland has had voluntary registration for social care workers in children's homes and managers of residential homes and day care facilities since 2003. This became mandatory for social care managers of residential, day care and domiciliary care in 2011 [CMA/008 - INQ000548128]. In Scotland, mandatory registration has been in place for managers of residential child care services, residential child care workers and those with supervisory responsibilities, and managers of adults' day services and care homes since late 2009 [CMA/009 - INQ000548129]. In Wales the registration of the social care workforce began in 2000, including the mandatory registration of managers of adult residential care homes and managers of children's residential homes. In 2013, domiciliary care managers were also required to register [CMA/010 - INQ000548130].
4. The table below gives an overview of the current state of registration in the devolved nations (adapted from the Nuffield Trust 'New Horizons' 2022 report [CMA/001 - INQ000548131]):

	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	England
Workforce regulator	Northern Ireland Social Care Council	Scottish Social Services Council	Social Care Wales	N/A
Mandatory registration for residential care?	Yes (2014)	Yes (2015)	Yes (Oct 2022)	N/A
Mandatory registration for domiciliary care?	Yes (2017)	Yes (2020)	Yes (2020)	N/A
Timeframe for registration	6 months	6 months	12 months	N/A
Cost	£30 per year (renew every five years)	£25 per year (renew every five years)	£30 per year (renew every three years)	N/A
Title protected in law	No	No	Yes	N/A
Post-registration training and learning	90 hours (15 days), over 5 years	60 hours (10 days), over 5 years	90 hours (15 days), over 5 years	N/A

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Signed:

Personal Data

Christina McAnea

Dated: 14 July 2025