

Question and Response: FOI 0080 2026 - Executive Working Group on Mental Wellbeing, Resilience and Suicide Prevention / Terms of Reference

You requested the following information:

Information in relation to the Executive Working Group on Mental Wellbeing, Resilience and Suicide Prevention. A response to your request is provided below:

RESPONSE

1. Updated Terms of Reference

Please find Terms of Reference attached.

Terms of Reference

The Executive Working Group on Wellbeing, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

1.0 Context

The Executive Working Group on Wellbeing, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention will have a clear commitment across the Executive to joint working to improve wellbeing and mental health, with suicide prevention as a central priority.

The primary functions of the Working Group are:

- To adopt a thematic approach to identify and address the social determinants that impact wellbeing and the risk factors for suicide.
- To monitor and report on progress of relevant departmental actions.
- To prioritise evidence based actions in support of suicide prevention and mental wellbeing.
- To examine wider progress in relation to the implementation of the Protect Life 2 Strategy.
- To enhance existing cross-departmental co-ordination on suicide prevention.
- To deliver cross-departmental actions to improve psychological resilience of marginalised groups.
- To oversee delivery of evidence based actions for reducing risk factors for suicide and for enhancing protective factors.

- To endorse and support delivery of the Mental Health Strategy and Making Life Better.
- Ensure a focus on training to promote wellbeing in the workplace and social settings using a trauma informed approach.

2.0 Membership

Membership will be The Northern Ireland Executive Committee; representatives (at a senior level / decision making level) of the key agencies or sectors with a responsibility for, and experience of, addressing suicide prevention issues and mental health and emotional wellbeing.

This will include senior representation from Department of Health and other Departments, the Public Health Agency and the Mental Health Champion.

Chair: Minister for Health

Secretariat Role: Department of Health

3.0 Schedule of Meetings and Preparation

- The Group will meet twice a year. Further ad hoc meetings may be established as required;
- Senior officials from each department will meet to agree agenda; priorities for the meeting (to follow thematic approach to identify and address the social determinants that impact wellbeing and the risk factors for suicide) and will ensure their minister is appropriately briefed;
- Papers and agenda to be shared a minimum of one week in advance. This will include agenda, notes of the last meeting and progress report.