

Question:

Section 1 — Website Governance Structures The governance framework used by the Department of Health (NI) to ensure that HSC Trust websites publish:

accurate policies,
current policies,
complete policy inventories,
and correct metadata (publication dates, review dates, version numbers).

The name of the Directorate responsible for:

policy publication oversight,
website governance,
digital content accuracy,
and compliance monitoring.

Any internal audits conducted since 2021 relating to:

outdated policies,
missing policies,
incorrect metadata,
broken links,
or inaccessible documents.

Section 2 — Policy Publication Accuracy

Please provide:

The Department's documented process for verifying that HSC Trusts publish:

the correct version of each policy,
the correct review cycle,
the correct approval authority,
and the correct governance owner.

Any correspondence, guidance, or directives issued to HSC Trusts since 2022 regarding:

policy publication accuracy,
policy metadata standards,
or policy review-cycle compliance.

Any known instances (recorded internally) where:

incorrect policies,
outdated policies,
or draft policies
were published on HSC Trust websites.

Section 3 — Digital Accessibility Compliance (WCAG / Public Sector Accessibility Regulations) Please provide:

The Department's accessibility compliance framework for HSC Trust websites, including:

WCAG 2.1 AA requirements,
PDF accessibility standards,
screen-reader compatibility,
alternative-text requirements,
colour-contrast standards,
keyboard navigation requirements.

Any accessibility audits conducted since 2021, including:

audit reports,
compliance findings,
remediation plans,
accessibility-failure logs.

Any enforcement actions or directives issued to HSC Trusts relating to:
accessibility failures,
inaccessible policy documents,
missing accessibility statements,
or non-compliance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

Section 4 — Website Metadata Integrity
Please provide:

The Department's standards for:

publication-date accuracy,
review-date accuracy,
version-control metadata,
and document-owner attribution.

Any metadata-integrity audits conducted since 2021.

Any known instances where:
publication dates were incorrect,
review dates were incorrect,
version numbers were incorrect,
or metadata was missing.

Section 5 — FOI Compliance and Website Publication Any internal guidance issued to HSC Trusts regarding:

FOI-related publication duties,
proactive publication requirements,
or Publication Scheme compliance.

Any audits or compliance checks conducted since 2020 relating to:
Publication Scheme completeness,

missing mandatory categories,
outdated FOI-related content.

Section 6 — Format Requirements

Please provide all information in its original, unflattened form, including:

governance frameworks,
audit reports,
compliance findings,
directives,
metadata standards,
accessibility audits,
and policy-publication guidance.

Response:

The information sought relates to the governance, management, publication, maintenance, accessibility, metadata, audit arrangements and operational oversight of Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust websites. These matters are not managed or overseen by the Department of Health.

The Trusts individual communications teams have governance over the HSC websites and Business Services Organisation (BSO) manage the functionality and software of the sites content management system. The Department of Health does not issue guidance to the Trusts or have access to the HSC metadata, digital content, audit details and editorial access etc. for the HSC websites.

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