# Question

Dear Sir/Madam, I wish to make a number of other FOI requests which all relate to sections of the PSNRAG minutes.

They are;

1) This is from the meeting 1 February 2019, section 18. It states that coroners' records were being reviewed "to see if there are any such cases outside this timescale which would benefit from investigation".

Did this exercise take place ?

Were any such cases identified ?

Were the coroner's records collated with any list of M Watt's deceased patients ? If not, how was it determined whether or not the cases were those of his patients ?

2) This relates to the meeting on 8 October 2019, section 10.

It states that the extracted of patient records for review would take ten weekends.

Did this exercise take ten weekends ? If not, how long did it take ?

3) This relates to the meeting on 30 September 2020, section 19.

Reference is made to an interim report to be provided by September 2021.

Was such a report provided ?

Is it available to be disclosed ?

4 ) This relates to the meeting on 15 January 2021, section 17.

Reference is made to a paper to be provided by Emer Hopkins on the draft objectives of Phase 2.

Was such a paper provided ?

Is it available to be disclosed ?

# Response

I am writing in response to your request received on 14 October 2026, submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), concerning extracts from the minutes of the Permanent Secretary Neurology Recall Assurance Group (PSNRAG).

It is important to note that the comments contained within the PSNRAG minutes reflect the information available, views expressed and circumstances that existed at the time the records were created. The minutes should therefore be read in their historical context

and regarded as a contemporaneous record of matters under consideration at that time. They do not necessarily reflect subsequent developments, outcomes or decisions.

I have set out below the Department's response to the questions raised and the requests that fall within the scope of the FOIA.

1. *'This is from the meeting 1 February 2019, section 18. It states that coroners' records were being reviewed "to see if there are any such cases outside this timescale which would benefit from investigation".*
   *Did this exercise take place?*
   *Were any such cases identified?'*

   I can confirm that the Expert Review Team considered certified causes of death during its review of deceased patient records. However, the Department does not hold any recorded information that would answer the specific questions asked.

2. *'This relates to the meeting on 8 October 2019, section 10. It states that the extracted of patient records for review would take ten weekends.*
   *Did this exercise take ten weekends?*
   *If not, how long did it take?'*

   As noted above, the minutes represent a snapshot of expectations at the time of the meeting. The minute records that the exercise was 'expected to take 10 weekends'. The Department does not hold any recorded information detailing this exercise and is therefore unable to provide a response to these questions.

3. *'This relates to the meeting on 30 September 2020, section 19. Reference is made to an interim report to be provided by September 2021.*
   *Was such a report provided?*
   *Is it available to be disclosed?'*

   The minute records that the 'RQIA hope to provide an interim report to the department in January 2021'. However, there was a significant delay in the progress of the Deceased Patient Review due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on available resources, together with the complexities associated with the review that proved more challenging than originally anticipated.

   The interim report 'Report on the Expert Review of Records of Deceased Patients (Neurology)' was subsequently published in November 2022. This report is reasonably accessible to you by other means and is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the FOIA. It is available on the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority's (RQIA) website at the following link: Deceased Patients Review (Neurology) | Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority.

4. '*This relates to the meeting on 15 January 2021, section 17. Reference is made to a paper to be provided by Emer Hopkins on the draft objectives of Phase 2.*
   *Was such a paper provided?*
   *Is it available to be disclosed?*'

I can confirm that the paper was provided by RQIA in advance of the meeting on 15 January 2021. A copy of the document 'Draft Objectives for Phase 2 DPR 20200114' is attached to this correspondence.

While your request relates to the draft version of the paper, in the interests of openness and transparency, attached is also a copy of the final version, received in April 2021, 'Expert Review of Records of Deceased Patients of Dr Watt: Phase Two Objectives', for completeness.

Date response issued: 11 November 2026

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