



Sara Boyce
sara@pprproject.org

Health Development Policy Branch
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BT4 3SQ

Our Ref: DOH/2022 - 0037

Date: 30 March 2022

Dear Ms Boyce

Request for Information: Freedom of Information Act 2000

Reference Number: DOH/2022-0037

I refer to your requests dated 25 February 2022 under the above legislation.

You requested the following regarding the Ministerial Co-ordination Group:

1. Terms of Reference and membership of the Ministerial Coordination Group for the Protect Life 2 Strategy
2. Minutes of meetings of this group.

You also requested the following regarding the Executive Working Group:

1. Terms of Reference for this Working Group
2. Minutes of 5th meeting held on 6 October 2021
3. Clarification as to how the remit of this group differs from that of the Ministerial Co-ordination Group on Protect Life 2.
4. As assessment of the unique impacts of this Working Group since it was established in March 2022 and details of how these impacts are measured
5. Future plans for the continuation of this Working Group

A copy of the Terms of Reference which includes the membership of the former Ministerial Co-ordination Group is attached. This Group met between 2011 and 2016 and was replaced by the Executive Working Group upon publication of Protect Life 2. There were 9 meetings of the Ministerial Co-ordination Group and the minutes are attached. Any redactions relate to junior staff whose names have been redacted.

In relation to the Executive Working Group, the Terms of Reference for this Group and draft minutes of 6 October 2021 are attached. The minutes normally are agreed

or amended as necessary by Ministers at the subsequent meeting. A date for the next meeting of the Group has not yet been set due to current pre-election period.

The newer Executive Working Group on Mental Wellbeing, Resilience and Suicide Prevention has a wider focus which more appropriately covers other Departments which are not as focused on frontline suicide prevention as Department of Health and Department of Justice. Often, other Departments have a greater role to play with regard to emotional health and wellbeing and resilience building.

The Executive Working Group has an oversight role of the overall Protect Life 2 Strategy. An outcomes framework is currently being developed which will accurately demonstrate the impacts of the Protect Life 2 Strategy across all Departments. Work was delayed on developing this framework due to the covid response.

The Executive Working Group will continue to have an oversight role for the Protect Life 2 Strategy.

If you feel that the information we have provided does not fully meet your request please contact us at 02890528689 in the first instance. You have the right to request a formal review by the Department within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you wish to do so, please write to Mr Brendan O'Neill (foi@health-ni.gov.uk), Annexe 3, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SQ.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Health Development Policy Branch
Local Information Manager