

DA Board Member report 2023/24

Board member name: Tom Frawley

Devolved administration: Northern Ireland

Summary of stakeholder engagement activities in 2023/24

My focus during the early part of 2023/24 was engaging with stakeholders to secure their participation in the first visit of the PSA Board to Northern Ireland in May 2023.

My general sense following the meeting in Belfast was that the Board found the meetings informative and helpful. Unfortunately, as has been the case on a number of occasions since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, the Executive and the Assembly were in suspension at the time of the meetings. As a consequence the Board did not have an opportunity to meet with local politicians during the visit. However we did have a meeting with the Permanent Secretary and Chief Medical Officer which I believe the Chair and Chief Executive found helpful. In the wider engagement around the Board meeting we met an extensive cross-section of individuals involved in health and social care.

I continue to struggle with bringing together a group of stakeholders who would provide the PSA with a constant and consistent stakeholder community in Northern Ireland. However there is now a reconstituted Patient and Client Council that I believe has real potential to act as a catalyst for a stakeholder forum for the PSA going forward.

Other Devolved Administration activities in 2023/24

In May of 2023 I was appointed Chair at one of the five health and social care trusts in Northern Ireland. This role has provided me with a much more complete insight into the operation of health and social care while also affording me an opportunity to promote a much greater awareness of the PSA and its core priority of protecting the public.

Planned stakeholder engagement in 2024 (to end of term)

I also have focused in recent months on researching potential candidates who might consider applying to become the next NI member of the PSA.

Suggestions for Authority work priorities in relation to the Devolved Administration in 2024 (to end of term)

The PSA during the remainder of my term I believe must focus on developing its own internal arrangements that will allow it to be more proactive in both engaging with and supporting its presence in Northern Ireland.