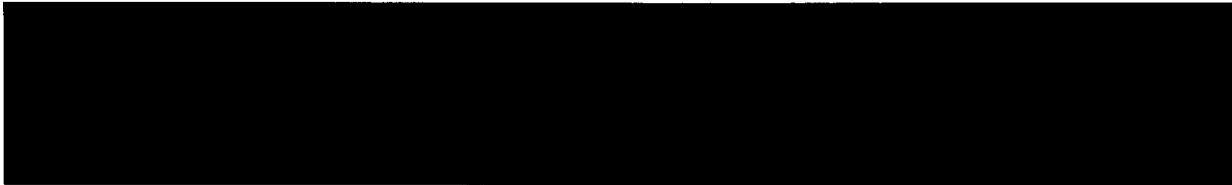


From: McKenna, Hugh [mailto:hp.mckenna@ulster.ac.uk]
Sent: 21 November 2012 21:08
To: Jendoubi, Christine
Cc: Deazley, Peter
Subject: RE: MCHPA and other things....

Dear Christine



Roy McConkey is your man – he is semi-retired so has quality of time on his hands. While I am interested in autism, it is not my field nor the field of Carol, who replaced me as dean.

James McElnay is my opposite number at QUB. (j.mcelnay@qub.ac.uk)

Warmest wishes

Hugh

From: Jendoubi, Christine [mailto:Christine.Jendoubi@dhsspsni.gov.uk]
Sent: 21 November 2012 15:37
To: McKenna, Hugh
Cc: Deazley, Peter
Subject: MCHPA and other things....

Hello Hugh

It was good to see you again at Hillsborough. A couple of things:



The other thing I was wanting to talk to you about was the Autism Strategy Research Advisory Committee. This committee has not got off the ground yet and I am intending to write to both yourselves and QUB to ask for a nominee to sit on it and I was wanting to take your mind on whom I should be writing to in both institutions. At UU should it be you or your replacement as Dean of Life and Health Sciences? I was hoping it would be you so that I could have a quiet word and ask what the chances are of your nominating Roy McConkey, whom the Committee Chair, Arlene Cassidy, would very much welcome, as you can guess, as well as ourselves....

I asked Wendy who your equivalent was in Queen's and she suggested a couple of names but thought I'd be better asking you directly.

Much appreciated!

Best wishes,

Cj

Christine Jendoubi (Mrs)

Director, Mental Health, Disability and Older People Policy | Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety | Room C4.1, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, BELFAST BT4 3SQ Tel: (028) 90522388 (Dialnet 22388) | Blackberry: 07870509576 | Fax: (028) 90520574

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Chapman, Allan

From: McConkey, Roy [r.mcconkey@ulster.ac.uk]
Sent: 27 November 2012 08:51
To: Jendoubi, Christine
Cc: McKenna, Hugh; McGarrity, Naomhin; Craughwell, Eva
Subject: RE: Nomination to the Autism Strategy Research Advisory Committee - UU

Hi Christine

Many thanks for your letter of invitation to join the Research Advisory Committee for the NI Autism Strategy. I am honoured to be asked and delighted to accept both personally and on behalf of the University. I think a Research Advisory Committee is an excellent proposal by the Minister and I wish the Department every success in developing and implementing the Strategy.

Although I am happy to be of assistance, I note that no time limit is mentioned in your accompanying note. For personal reasons I would like to commit for two years in the first instance .

I hope this email suffices as a reply and I look forward to receiving more details in the coming weeks. It is possible that I will working overseas from 28th January to 12th February 2013.

All good wishes,
Roy,

From: Jendoubi, Christine [mailto:Christine.Jendoubi@dhsspsni.gov.uk]
Sent: 26 November 2012 13:30
To: McConkey, Roy
Cc: McKenna, Hugh; McGarrity, Naomhin; Craughwell, Eva
Subject: Nomination to the Autism Strategy Research Advisory Committee - UU

Hello Roy,

For your attention please.

Cj

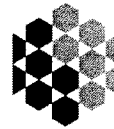
Christine Jendoubi (Mrs)

Director, Mental Health, Disability and Older People Policy | Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety | Room C4.1, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, BELFAST BT4 3SQ Tel: (028) 90522388 (Dialnet 22388) | Blackberry: 07870509576 | Fax: (028) 90520574

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Christine Jendoubi
Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People Policy



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890 522388
Fax: 02890 520725
Email: christine.jendoubi@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

26 November 2012

Dear Roy,

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUTISM STRATEGY RESEARCH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to serve on the above Committee.

As a result of the Autism Act (NI) 2011, the DHSSPS is leading on the development of a cross-departmental Autism Strategy and Action Plan for Northern Ireland. A multi-agency Project Board was established to direct and manage the development of the draft Strategy and Action Plan which will be launched by the Minister for public consultation early next week.

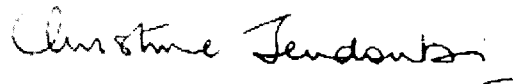
In parallel with this work, the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety decided that the Autism Strategy should establish a Research Committee. In recognition of her role in supporting the progress of the Autism Act, he invited Dr Arlene Cassidy (CEO of Autism NI) to take on the role of chairperson of the Committee, which she accepted. As a subsidiary group of the Autism Strategy Project Board, an update from the Research Committee will be a standing item on the agenda of all Project Board meetings.

I contacted Professor McKenna and he confirmed that you would be the ideal UU representative. So I am writing to you, in my capacity as the current Chairperson of the Autism Strategy Project Board, to ask if you would be prepared to represent the University of Ulster on the Autism Strategy Research Committee. I have attached the final draft Terms of Reference for the Committee, which includes details of all the organisations which we are inviting nominations from.

Could I ask you please to reply, and copy to Naomhin McGarrity in the Autism Strategy Team in the Department (Naomhin.mcgarrity@dhsspsni.gov.uk), before **Friday 14 December 2012**? I anticipate that the initial meeting of the Committee will take place in early January 2013.

If you have any further queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely



CHRISTINE JENDOUBI

**Northern Ireland Autism Strategy Research Advisory
Committee
Draft Terms of Reference**

The Research Advisory Committee is established to ensure that the most recent research findings are available:

- to the Project Board to inform development of the autism strategy and action plan; and
- to government departments and their agencies to inform the design, planning and delivery of services.

The Research Advisory Committee will:

- Advise on the implications of local, national and international autism research for the development of good practice within and across all service sectors and age ranges;
- Identify models of best practice/excellence in Northern Ireland as well as nationally and internationally;
- Create and develop links with researchers and research organisations, nationally and internationally, and encourage opportunities for mutual sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources;
- Provide an element of peer-review to proposed research projects submitted to the Project Board or under consideration by it;
- Identify funding sources for research across government including through the development of UK wide, EU and international links as well as through education and university partnerships;
- Establish appropriate links with other countries contributing to consideration of an autism strategy for Europe;
- Act as an information resource for Project Board members with respect to research findings, methodologies, etc and advise on research opportunities which the Project Board may propose;
- Agree with the Prevalence Data sub group appropriate arrangements for sharing information and utilising autism data for ongoing research;

- Link researchers with service providers and service users to enhance the relevance of the research studies undertaken;
- Provide updates to the Project Board at each meeting;
- Advise on pertinent research questions that will facilitate the implementation of the NI Autism Strategy and propose how such research might be taken forward;
- Support Departments as requested by them in evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the Autism Strategy.

In carrying out its research advisory role the Research Advisory Committee will not seek to espouse or promote a particular methodology in the care and/or treatment of people with autism.

MEMBERSHIP

The core membership of the Committee will comprise:

Chairperson Dr Arlene Cassidy (Appointed by Minister of DHSSPS)

Nominee from University of Ulster

Nominee from Queen's University of Belfast

Nominee from Middletown Centre for Autism

Nominee from the National Autistic Society

Nominee from Head of Research HSCNI

Nominee from Information Analysis Division at DHSSPS

Nominees should be requested on the basis that they will bring appropriate research background and skills to contribute to the Research Advisory Committee's work

The membership may be extended by co-option for particular purposes and periods as agreed between the Committee and the Department. The Committee may also invite named individuals to attend a meeting or meetings on an ad hoc basis to bring particular areas of expertise to bear on planned agenda items or aspects of the Committee's work.

In either case, and as for core members of the Committee, travel and subsistence expenses only will be payable, as approved by the Department in accordance with public expenditure rules.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Committee will meet in advance of each meeting of the Autism Strategy Project Board or quarterly, whichever is the more frequent.

Secretarial support for the Research Advisory Committee will be provided by the Department.