

FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to be kept up to date on our work, complete this form and post it back to us.



Email address:

First name:

Last name:

Organisation: (if applicable)

- I am an older person
- I am a public representative
- I work for an organisation which supports older people
- I care for/am related to an older person.

GDPR and Marketing Permissions*

Please confirm that you would like to receive emails from the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland:

- Agree

CONTACT US

To receive more information you can contact us the following ways:

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COPNI Commissioner for Older People
for Northern Ireland



Promoting and safeguarding
the rights of older people
in Northern Ireland.

WHO WE ARE



Eddie Lynch is the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland. His overarching role is to safeguard and promote the interests of older people.*

The organisation was set up in 2011, under the Commissioner for Older People Act (NI) 2011, in order to advise and influence government on the rights and interests of older people.

Since its establishment in 2011, the Commissioner has published a series of reports and investigations. This includes our *Appreciating Age* report, *Crime and Justice: The experience of older victims of crime in Northern Ireland*, and *Home Truths, the Commissioner's Investigation into Dunmurry Manor Care Home*.

*Older people are defined as aged 60 and over.

WHAT WE DO

As an independent champion for older people, the Commissioner has many powers and duties.

The key duties of COPNI are to:

- promote awareness of the interests of older people in Northern Ireland;
- keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of the law as it affects the interests of older people;
- keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of services provided to older people by “relevant authorities”;
- promote the provision of opportunities for and the elimination of discrimination against older people;
- encourage best practice in the treatment of older people;
- promote positive attitudes towards older people and encourage; participation by older people in public life;
- advise the Assembly, the Secretary of State and a relevant authority on matters concerning the interests of older people; and
- take reasonable steps to communicate with older people.

HOW DO WE DO THIS?

Under the COPNI legislation, the Commissioner has a number of powers which include:

- arranging for research or educational activities concerning the interests of older people;
- issuing guidance on best practice in relation to any matter concerning the interests of older people;
- conducting investigations for the purpose of any of his functions;
- compiling and publishing information concerning the interests of older people; and
- providing advice or information on any matter concerning the interests of older people.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

COPNI can help you by:

- intervening directly on your behalf if you have been having difficulty with a public body that you cannot resolve with them;
- putting you in touch with organisations best placed to resolve your concerns; and
- providing legal assistance and conducting investigations into cases affecting older people, their rights and entitlements.