# The Northern Ireland Confederation for Health and Social Care - Associate Membership Scheme

**Background Information and Application Form 2025/26**

***Connecting you with Northern Ireland’s Health and Social Care system***

# Overview of our work

**Who we are:**

The Northern Ireland Confederation for Health and Social Care (NICON) is the voice of the organisations working across Northern Ireland’s integrated Health and Social Care system (HSC). Part of the UK-wide NHS Confederation, NICON is the only membership body for all HSC organisations. In addition to our HSC core members, we have an associate membership scheme for organisations who work closely with the HSC to provide an opportunity for connection and communication across the system. The work of NICON is overseen by a Management Committee, comprising HSC Chairs, Chief Executives, and Directors.

**Our Vision and Mission:**

Our vision is a continually improving health and social care services that are available to all and based on clinical need not an individual’s ability to pay.

Our mission is therefore to improve health and well-being by supporting our members provide world class standards of care for patients and users while delivering best value for taxpayers’ money.

**How we do it:**

* **Influencing** -Through constant dialogue with key stakeholders, we ensure that members' views are informed and taken into account.
* **Informing** – We provide accurate and timely information through policy briefings and regular monitoring updates, keeping members on top of latest developments both within Northern Ireland and in the wider NHS.
* **Connecting and Learning -** Via a series of topical events each year, we provide an opportunity for networking and discussion. Our flagship event is the NICON annual conference when we bring together over 600 key stakeholders.

**Our Core Values:**

All of our work is underpinned by our core values:

* Listening and responding to the needs of our members.
* Working in partnership to create dialogue and build consensus.
* Acting in the interests of patients and the public.

**Who we work with:**

We work in partnership with a wide range of organisations that represent health professionals; patients, their families and carers; NHS suppliers; local government; and the wider health and social care industry. A list of our current membership can be found in **Annex A** below.

# Associate Membership Scheme

Our associate membership is designed to help the wider health and social care community engage and build collaborative working relationships with HSC organisations in Northern Ireland. Associate membership of NICON is open to organisations working in the health and social care space in NI, whether they are based within the public, voluntary, or commercial sector. NICON provides a unique forum in which colleagues from across these sectors can meet and learn together.

**Associate Member benefits:**

The key benefits of being an Associate Member include:

* Subscription to our weekly newsletter, which covers:
  + News and events from NICON and the wider NHS Confederation.
  + Media updates relevant to health and social care in Northern Ireland (including departmental press releases).
  + Political monitoring (including signposting to consultations and updates on NI Assembly & Executive proceedings).
  + Updates from our Members and Associate Members (submissions welcome).
* Free attendance at NICON seminars and webinars (usually 6-10 per year considering topical issues) and a variety of NHS Confederation member events
* Priority involvement in the NICON annual conference and reduced attendance rates.
* Opportunities to sponsor NHS Confederation activities or work in partnership on key events.
* Access to our website, which includes all NHS Confederation publications
* Access to support and information from NICON colleagues, including signposting to useful connections within the HSC system, other regional networks, and the wider NHS Confederation.
* Opportunities to input into NICON’s work and share your views with us.

**Becoming a member:**

To become a member, please complete the below application form and return it to Robyn Scott, Policy and Communications Manager, on [robyn.scott@niconfedhss.org](mailto:robyn.scott@niconfedhss.org).

*Approval of your membership request will remain at the discretion of the Northern Ireland Confederation.*

If you have any questions about membership or difficulties completing the form, please contact Robyn at the above email address.

# Associate Member Application Form

**A: FEES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NICON Associate Membership Fee** | 2025-2026 | Please indicate relevant category |
| **Commercial** (31+ Employees/Members) | £1,500 |  |
| **Commercial** (Less than 30 Employees/Members) | £750 |  |
| **Not for Profit Body** (6+ staff) | £500 |  |
| **Small Not for Profit Body** (0 - 5 staff) | £250 |  |

**B: APPLICANT DETAILS**

**Organisation Name:** .....................................................................................................................

**Organisation Address:** ..................................................................................................................

**Organisation Website:** …………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Key contact information**

Please provide the contact information of up to eight key contacts from your organisation. These individuals will receive our newsletter and other member alerts, including notification of our upcoming events.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:**  **Job role:**  **Email:**  **Telephone:** | **1 *(Primary contact)*** | **2** |
| **Name:**  **Job role:**  **Email:**  **Telephone:** | **3** | **4** |
| **Name:**  **Job role:**  **Email:**  **Telephone:** | **5** | **6** |
| **Name:**  **Job role:**  **Email:**  **Telephone:** | **7** | **8** |

The contact details you have provided will be entered into our database and mailing list for Associate Members in accordance with the [NHS Confederation’s Privacy Policy](https://www.nhsconfed.org/privacy).

The Confederation may from time to time wish to share your information with other organisations. Please check this box to confirm that you are happy for us to do so.

**I confirm that we wish to join as a NICON Associate Member.**

**Signed** ......................................................................................

**Date** ............................................

**Please return the completed form to:**

Robyn Scott, Policy and Communications Manager via email on [robyn.scott@niconfedhss.org](mailto:robyn.scott@niconfedhss.org).

*Once you submit your application, a member of our team will be in touch. Thank you!*

**NICON**, HSC Leadership Centre, 12 Hampton Manor Drive, Belfast, BT7 3EN

**Tel:** 028 9536 1779

**Bluesky:** [@niconfederation.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/niconfederation.bsky.social)

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/northern-ireland-nhs-confed>

# Appendix: Current NICON Membership

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NICON Membership Overview 2025** | | | |
| **HSC Members (18)** | | | |
| **Commissioners (2)** | Public Health Agency (PHA)  Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) | | |
| **Providers (6)** | Belfast HSC Trust  Northern HSC Trust  Southern HSC Trust  South Eastern HSC Trust  Western HSC Trust  NI Ambulance Service HSC Trust (NIAS) | | |
| **Other Agencies (10)** | Business Services Organisation (BSO)  NI Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS)  The Children's Court Guardian Agency for NI (CCGANI)  NI Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA)  NI Practice and Education Council (NIPEC) | | NI Social Care Council (NISCC)  Patient & Client Council (PCC)  Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)  Safeguarding Board NI (SBNI)  NI Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) |
| **Associate Members** | | | |
| **Commercial**   1. BT 2. Connected Health 3. Novartis 4. Pfizer 5. The Access Group | **Third Sector**   1. Age NI 2. Alzheimer’s Society 3. British Heart Foundation 4. British Red Cross NI 5. Centre for Independent Living NI 6. Co3 7. Healthy Living Centre Alliance 8. Heart Failure Warriors 9. Inspire 10. Marie Curie 11. Mencap NI 12. Motor Neuron Disease Association NI 13. My Home Life NI 14. NI Chest, Heart & Stroke 15. NI Pancreatic Cancer 16. Positive Futures 17. Sense Northern Ireland 18. Stroke Association NI 19. The Cedar Foundation 20. The Gaitway Organisation | **Representative Bodies / Other**   1. British Association of Social Workers NI (BASW NI) 2. British Dental Association (BDA) 3. British Medical Association (BMA) 4. Community Pharmacy NI 5. European Connected Health Alliance 6. General Medical Council (GMC) 7. HIRANI 8. Institute of Public Health in Ireland 9. National Institute for health and Care Excellence (NICE) 10. NI Healthcare Leadership Forum 11. Northern GP Federation Support Unit 12. Pharmaceutical Society NI 13. Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care 14. Resolute Public Affairs 15. Royal College of GPs 16. Royal College of Occupational Therapists 17. Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health 18. Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists 19. Royal College of Surgeons 20. Southern GP Federation Support Unit | |