



The National Review Panel invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified professionals who are interested in becoming panel members on a Consultancy basis.

How do I apply: All interested persons must provide the following:

- Comprehensive CV to include; contact details, details of qualifications, relevant experience and specific skills relevant to the tasks.
- Completed “**Eligibility Criteria Questions**” as requested with this document.
- Names of two referees.

All of the above should be emailed to Naomi.boland1@tusla.ie.

If appointed, panel members who previously worked in Tusla will not be allocated work until two years has elapsed since the cessation of their employment with Tusla.

Please note that this is an on-going application process and applications will be considered at regular intervals based on the needs of the service. The role is essentially a part time role and may also therefore be attractive to professionals who have retired.

Contact for Enquiries: NRP Service Manager, Naomi Boland, 01 6424728 or Naomi.boland1@tusla.ie.

Background and independence of function

The National Review Panel (NRP) is a functionally independent panel, commissioned by Tusla, for the investigation of serious incidents, including the deaths of children who were in the care or otherwise known to the child protection and welfare services. The panel was set up in 2010 as part of the Implementation Plan associated with the Report of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse, 2009 (Ryan Report). It operates under the guidance issued by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, last revised in December 2014.

The NRP has an independent Chair and is supported by a Service Manager. It makes findings of fact and produces objective reports which are submitted to the Chair of the Board of Tusla and also to HIQA. It operates separately from Tusla and engages independent legal advisors. Its overarching objective is to promote learning and best practice from its review of cases with a view to assisting the child welfare and protection system in improving its services and minimising the possibility of similar incidents occurring in the future.

Role of Panel Members

Panel members will be assigned to review individual cases and will be required to commit to the requisite number of days to complete the review in a timely manner. Panel members will be required to work in teams as assigned by the Chair to undertake reviews of child deaths and serious incidents which will involve:

- Initial scoping of the nature and scale of individual reviews
- Identifying relevant documentation to be requested from key stakeholders
- Identifying key staff and family members who were closely involved with the child or young person
- Drafting terms of reference to be agreed with the NRP Chair
- Conducting a review with a colleague and/or with the input of the Chair of the NRP, which involves:
 - Reviewing documentation
 - Conducting interviews with staff and family members
 - Drafting a report
 - Providing extracts to individuals who contributed to the review for factual accuracy checking
 - Discussing the draft report with the family members
 - Amending the report as necessary prior to finalisation by the Chair

Eligibility Criteria/Qualifications and/or Experience

Panel members must possess the following:

- A minimum of ten years practice/management experience in the provision of child protection and welfare services in one of the following sectors or disciplines
 - Social Work
 - Psychiatry
 - Psychology
- Good knowledge of child law and a detailed understanding of child protection and welfare policy
- Demonstrably excellent writing and analytic skills
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- The ability to complete work to a deadline
- Basic IT skills including competence in Word

Skills, competencies and/or knowledge

Panel members must possess the following:

Professional knowledge

- Planning and managing resources
- Evaluating information and judging situations
- Communication and interpersonal skills

Other requirements of the role: Travel may be required

Service Level Agreement and conditions of panel membership

A Service Level Agreement will be signed by panel members which will commit them to the terms and conditions of the consultancy. Acceptance on the panel will not be a guarantee of work. Individual review teams will be appointed on the basis of the skills and experience of panel members that are relevant to a specific case. Once allocated to a team, panel members will be subject to a case management process overseen by the Service Manager and the Chair and will be expected to submit a report by an agreed deadline.

The Child and Family Agency indemnifies the work of the panel members. Details of this indemnity will be set out in the Service Level Agreement.

Remuneration is currently paid at the rate of **€400** per seven hour working day and pro-rata for any periods of less than a seven hour working day.

The appointment shall remain in force for the service term unless it is terminated earlier

Full details are available within the Service Level Agreements which will be issued to panel members on engagement.

Eligibility Criteria Questions for Application

1. Please demonstrate your management and practice experience in the provision of child protection and welfare services (Minimum 10 years required)

Date(s) from – Date(s) to

Employer(s) and Department name: private, public or voluntary sector

Brief details of roles and responsibilities as relevant to the role of panel member:

2. Please outline your knowledge of child law and demonstrate your detailed understanding of child protection and welfare policy as relevant to this role

3. Please demonstrate your excellent writing and analytical skills by composing in no less than 250 words and no more than 500 words why you are suitable for the appointment of National Review Panel member.

4. Please outline the details of your relevant third level qualification required as relevant to the role of National Review Panel member

Date(s) from – Date(s) to

Educational Institution

Conferring Body

Course of Study

Qualification Achieved

Grade(s) Achieved