



The **Regulation** and
Quality Improvement
Authority

Our Ref

02 April 2015

Managers and Proprietors
All regulated residential care and nursing homes

Dear Sir/Madam

Competence of persons carrying out fire risk assessments in regulated residential care and nursing homes

RQIA wrote to all registered residential care and nursing homes in January 2013 regarding the competence of persons carrying out fire risk assessments in residential care and nursing homes.

A copy of this letter can be found on RQIA's website: [click here](#)

The guidance on choosing a competent fire risk assessor issued by the Fire Risk Assessment Competency Council which accompanied that letter has now been amended by that body to include the current up-to-date list of third party and professional organisations offering suitable accreditation and registration schemes.

This can also be found on our website: [click here](#)

It is good to note that since issue of the letter in January 2013, a significant number of persons carrying out fire risk assessments in care homes in Northern Ireland have gained entry onto the listed accreditation and registration schemes and a further number are at the application stage working towards entry.

It is also worth noting that the response by registered providers has been extremely positive demonstrating appreciation of the merit in using the services of a fire risk assessor holding suitable registration or accreditation.

You should be aware that membership of the listed organisation by the fire risk assessor does not in itself provide the required assurance. Such assurance can be attained by inclusion on the organisations' accreditation and registration schemes for fire risk assessors.

Accordingly, you may wish to check the associated schemes when appointing your fire risk assessor. These can normally be found on the respective organisation's website.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. C. Cunningham'.

Phil Cunningham
Senior Estates Officer RQIA

cc Director of Operations and Nursing Regulation RQIA
Heads of Programmes, RQIA
Brian Godfrey, DHSSPS HEIG
Estates Inspectors RQIA