

## COPNI can help you by:

- Putting you in touch with organisations best placed to resolve your concerns;
- Intervening directly if you have been having difficulties with a public body that you cannot resolve with them;
- Providing legal assistance and conducting investigations into cases affecting older people and their rights and entitlements.

### Contact us

**Commissioner for Older People  
for Northern Ireland**

Equality House (6th Floor)  
7-9 Shaftesbury Square  
Belfast Northern Ireland  
BT2 7DP

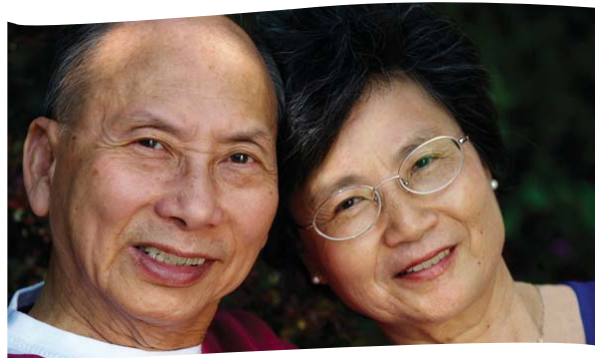
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If you would like copies of this booklet in other languages or formats, please contact us.



## A short guide to the work of the Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland (COPNI)

# About COPNI



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

COPNI is a non-departmental public body established under legislation\*\* with a responsibility to advise and influence Government, focusing on the rights and interests of older people.

## Legal Powers

- Make arrangements for research or educational activities concerning the interests of older people;
- Issue guidance on best practice in relation to any matter concerning the interests of older people;
- Conduct investigations for the purpose of any of his functions;
- Compile and publish information concerning the interests of older people;
- Provide advice or information on any matter concerning the interests of older people.

\*Older people are defined as aged 60 years and over. In exceptional cases this may also include those aged over 50 years.

\*\*Commissioner for Older People Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

## Legal Duties

- 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 effectiveness of services provided to older people by relevant authorities;
- Promote provision of opportunities for, and 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, Secretary of State and any relevant authority on matters concerning the interests of older people;
- Take reasonable steps to communicate with older people.