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

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

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.

*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