

Report on	The regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland
Date of Meeting	15 th September 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Melanie Patterson, Principal Environmental Health Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Members of a request from The Local Authority Health and Safety Liaison Group (HSLG) seeking Council's written support to request better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.
2.0	Background
2.1	The popularity of aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments has grown rapidly in recent years, with new non-surgical cosmetic procedures continually emerging on the market.
2.2	The existing legislation available to Environmental Health Officers in Northern Ireland to regulate this sector is however considered no longer fit for purpose.
2.3	In October 2021 the <i>Botulinum Toxin and Cosmetic Fillers (Children) Act 2021</i> came into force in England making it illegal to administer Botox or a filler by way of injection for a cosmetic purpose to a person under 18 years of age. No such law exists in Northern Ireland.
2.4	The introduction of a national licensing scheme to govern the oversight of advanced aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments was one of seventeen recommendations made by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing following their Inquiry into advanced aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments.
2.5	The UK Government recently confirmed its intention to introduce a licensing regime for non-surgical cosmetic procedures to better regulate the cosmetic industry in England through an amendment to the Health and Care Bill.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Cosmetic treatments are those carried out for non-medical reasons, usually for aesthetic purposes.
3.2	In recent years there has been a significant rise in the number and type of non-surgical aesthetic procedures available, with many practitioners performing treatments without being able to evidence appropriate training and the required standards of oversight and supervision.
3.3	The licensing scheme proposed for England will introduce consistent standards that individuals carrying out non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as lip fillers, Botox etc. must

	meet, as well as hygiene and safety standards for premises. The new licensing scheme will focus on those cosmetic procedures which, if improperly performed, have the potential to cause great harm.
3.4	The existing legislation available to Environmental Health Officers to regulate this sector in Northern Ireland is considered no longer fit for purpose. The current legislative controls only cover a very limited range of treatments, meaning many newer, riskier treatments are unregulated. Additionally no licensing scheme (similar to that being introduced in England) exists in Northern Ireland.
3.5	The Local Authority Health and Safety Liaison Group (HSLG) is the joint strategic steering group for health and safety within Northern Ireland and it is a subgroup of Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI). The HSLG comprises of representatives from each Council in Northern Ireland and the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI). The HSLG is asking Mid Ulster District Council for their support in this matter and requests that Members consider writing to the Health Minister to seek the better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures. (letter received enclosed within Appendix A)
3.6	A draft letter is enclosed within Appendix A for Members consideration and approval to send.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Human: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Risk Management: None anticipated at this juncture.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Members note the contents of this report, support the Local Authority Health and Safety Liaison Group's request and agree to send a letter to the Health Minister to ask for better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A – Letter from the Local Authority Health and Safety Liaison Group
6.2	Appendix B – Draft Letter to the Northern Ireland Health Minister.