

**Nursing and Midwifery Council
Investigating Committee**

**Interim Order Review Hearing
Wednesday, 9 October 2024**

Virtual Hearing

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| Name of Registrant: | Christopher Thomas Higgins |
| NMC PIN | 11L0716E |
| Part(s) of the register: | Registered Nurse – Mental Health RNMH – 10 February 2012 |
| Relevant Location: | Armagh |
| Panel members: | Godfried Attafua (Chair, Registrant member) Jessica Read (Registrant member) John Anderson (Lay member) |
| Legal Assessor: | Graeme Sampson |
| Hearings Coordinator: | Hamizah Sukiman |
| Nursing and Midwifery Council: | Represented by Shaun McPhee, Case Presenter |
| Mr Higgins: | Not present and unrepresented at this hearing |
| Interim order to be reviewed: | Interim suspension order (18 months) |
| Outcome of review: | Interim suspension order confirmed |

Decision and reasons on interim order

The panel decided to confirm the current interim suspension order.

Unless there has been a material change of circumstances, a reviewing panel will review the interim suspension order at an administrative meeting within the next six months. A reviewing panel will be invited by the Nursing and Midwifery Council ('NMC') to confirm the interim suspension order at this meeting and Mr Higgins will be notified of that panel's decision in writing following that meeting.

Alternatively, Mr Higgins is entitled to have the interim suspension order reviewed at a hearing. This means that Mr Higgins will be able to attend and make representations, send a representative on Mr Higgins' behalf or submit written representations about whether the interim order continues to be necessary. Mr Higgins must inform his case officer if he would like the interim suspension order to be reviewed at a hearing.

Even if Mr Higgins does not request a hearing, where there has been a material change of circumstances that might mean that the interim order should be revoked or replaced, a reviewing panel will review the interim suspension order at a hearing which Mr Higgins and his representative will be invited to attend.

Mr Higgins should notify the NMC immediately of any material change of circumstances that may affect the interim order.

At any time, Mr Higgins or the NMC may ask for the interim order to be reviewed by a panel if any relevant new information becomes available.

The NMC Case Examiners are yet to decide whether there is a case to answer in relation to the allegations made against Mr Higgins. The NMC will write to Mr Higgins when the case is ready for the next stage of the fitness to practise process.

This will be confirmed to Mr Higgins in writing.

That concludes this determination.