Telling It Like It Is (TILII) Response

Using Body Worn Cameras

April 2026

Introduction

Since 1999, the Association for Real Change in Northern Ireland (ARC NI) has been bringing people together to change thinking, change practice, and change lives. We work with Experts by Experience, alongside individuals, organisations, and communities, to turn ideas into real, practical change that makes a difference every day.

ARC NI supports the TILII (Telling It Like It Is) groups. These groups are made up of people with a learning disability, autism, and other support needs from the Belfast, Western, and South Eastern Trust areas. TILII also includes people living in Muckamore Abbey Hospital and people moving back into the community.

TILII members speak up for their rights and share their real-life experiences. We make sure our voices are heard in decisions that affect our lives. We create Easy Read information, deliver training, take part in consultations, and make films so information is clear and easy to understand. Advocacy is not just something we do, it is at the heart of everything we do.

For this consultation, **48 TILII members** shared their views. Members live in different places, including with family, in supported living, in residential care, and in hospital. This means our feedback is based on real life, what is working, what is not, and what needs to change.

Our View

All 48 TILII members who took part in this consultation agreed with Plan A and Plan B.

We understand that staff in hospitals can face violence and aggression. This is not okay. Staff have the right to feel safe at work, just like patients have the right to feel safe when getting care.

TILII members believe body worn cameras could:

- Stop some people from being aggressive
- Calm situations down before they get worse
- Show clearly what happened
- Help make hospitals safer for everyone

We agree with Plan A to test cameras in Emergency Departments first. This is the right approach, it allows learning, and improvement.

We also agree with Plan B, but only if the testing shows that cameras are safe, fair, and actually make a differnce.

What Matters to TILII Members

While we support the plans, there are important things the Trust must get right.

- People must always be told when a camera is turned on
- Cameras must never be used in private situations like personal care
- Information must be clear, simple, and available in Easy Read
- People with a learning disability or autism may feel worried, anxious, or confused about cameras
- Staff must be properly trained to use cameras in the right way and at the right time
- Privacy, dignity, and respect must always come first

Equality and Fairness

TILII members believe safety is important for everyone.

But we are also clear, cameras must never be used in a way that is unfair.

The Trust must make sure that:

- People with a disability are not targeted more than others
- Reasonable adjustments are always made
- People are properly supported before situations reach crisis point

Good support and understanding must always come first, not just recording behaviour.

Final Comments

TILII members want to see this work make a real difference.

We hope the pilot helps:

- Reduce violence and aggression in hospitals
- Help staff feel safer and more supported
- Create calmer, safer environments for patients, carers, and visitors

We support the Trust’s aim to keep staff safe. This matters to us.

At the same time, we will always stand up for the rights, dignity, and safety of people with a learning disability, autism, and other support needs.

We would welcome hearing about the outcomes of the pilot and what has been learned.

It is important that any future decisions are based on what works, what is fair, and what respects people’s rights.