

Notice of Decision

Registrant	Caitlin McCaul
Registration number	7011623
Part of Register	Part 2 – Domiciliary Care Worker
Sanction	Warning to remain on your registration for a period of 2 years
Date of Effect	28th August 2025

This is a notice of decision of the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (the Council).

Decision

The Council has decided:

1. that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that there is a realistic prospect that your Fitness to Practise is impaired by reason of Misconduct, as defined in Part 1, Rule 4 of the NISCC Fitness to Practise (Amendment) Rules 2019.
2. to issue a warning and direct that a record of the warning should be placed on your entry in the Register for a period of 2 years.

MISCONDUCT

That whilst being registered as a Social Care Worker, under the Health and Personal Social Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 (as amended), you committed the following offences resulting in Conditional Discharges being determined at the Magistrates' Court on 1 April 2025.

(a) On 11 November 2023, unlawfully assaulted [REDACTED], contrary to section 42 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and the offence is aggravated by reason of involving domestic abuse, contrary to section 15 of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021.

(b) On 10 November 2023, without lawful excuse damaged a BMW car registration number [REDACTED] belonging to [REDACTED] intending to damage such property or being reckless as to whether such property should be damaged contrary to Article 3 (1) of the Criminal Damage (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 and the offence is aggravated by reason of involving domestic abuse, contrary to section 15 of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021.

And your actions as set out at (a) and (b) above show that your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of your misconduct.

Reasons

The reasons that this behaviour is considered to constitute impaired fitness to practise are:

- Your actions were inappropriate, and constituted aggravated criminal offences.
- The public has the right to expect that social care workers, in whom it places its trust and confidence, to uphold the law and not to engage in offending behaviour, nor otherwise behave in a way in work or outside work which would call into question their suitability to work in social care services.
- Your behaviour has fallen below the standard expected of a person registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Worker

The Standards of Conduct and Practice for Social Care Workers that your behaviour has breached, are as follows:

Standard 5

As a social care worker, you must uphold public trust and confidence in social care services.

In particular you must not:

5.8 Behave in a way, in work or outside work, which would call into question your suitability to work in social care services.

Sanction

Having regard to the document '*Consensual Disposal Indicative Sanctions*' the Council decided that the appropriate sanction was the imposition of a warning on your registration for a period of 2 years.

Reasons for the Sanction

When reaching its decision, the Council considered the following aggravating factors:

- You pleaded guilty to Assault, and a separate charge of Criminal Damage, both offences being aggravated by domestic abuse, on 1 April 2025.
- The Council has considered the Court Certificates, confirming your guilty pleas and court outcomes in respect of each offence.
- Your actions are capable of undermining public confidence in the social care profession.
- Your behaviour has demonstrated a serious disregard for the NISCC Standards of Conduct and Practice.

The following mitigating circumstances were taken into account in reaching this decision.

- You have no previous record of misconduct with the Council.
- Previous good history and character.
- The concerns occurred outside of your work.

- You engaged with your former employer's investigation prior to your resignation.
- You had a previously clear record of service in your social care employment.
- You submitted a self-declaration to the Council in respect of the criminal proceedings.
- You have engaged with the Council's investigation and provided your reflective account, expressing your regret and insight.
- You provided personal mitigation which has been accepted by the Council.
- There has been no repetition of your behaviour.

Consent

Having been advised of the consequences, and having been recommended to take independent advice, you consented to the imposition of a warning on 12th August 2025. A record of the warning has been placed on your entry in the Register for a period of two years and does not affect your ability to practise.

Date of Effect

This warning comes into effect on 28 August 2025.



Co-Director of Regulation and Standards (Interim)

28th August_2025

Date