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Charity warns of abuse risk

BY LISA SMYTH

SOME of the most vulnerable members of society may be at risk of abuse during the coronavirus shutdown, a charity has warned.

UK safer ageing charity Hourglass spoke out as the majority of older people across Northern Ireland are told to remain at home in the coming months.

It has called for the Northern Ireland Executive to act to pro-

tect older people in the coming weeks and months. The charity's caution is based on new evidence that shows a "disturbing" tolerance for abuse towards older people in Northern Ireland in addition to rising societal tensions.

These two factors have been branded a "recipe for disaster" by Hourglass CEO Richard Robinson. He warned: "The lockdown measures will create a pressure cooker environment for abuse, with vulnerable older people at particular risk."