



Mental Health Reform

Promoting Improved Mental Health Services

Mr. Paul Reid,
Chief Executive Officer,
Health Service Executive (HSE),
Dr Steevens' Hospital,
Dublin 8,
D08 W2A8

via email to: ceo.office@hse.ie

27th January 2022

Dear Mr Reid,

My name is Fiona Coyle and I am the CEO of Mental Health Reform (MHR). Mental Health Reform (MHR) is Ireland's leading national coalition on mental health. Together with our 76 member organisations and thousands of individual supporters, MHR provides a unified voice to the Government, its agencies, the Oireachtas and the general public on mental health issues.

One of our key asks in recent years has been for the reinstatement of a National Director for Mental Health in the HSE. MHR has called for the reinstatement of this hugely important post due to the need for strategic overview and leadership in the improvement of access to mental health services across the country.

As you are aware, Minister Mary Butler's speech in the Dáil last night called for the reinstatement of a national lead for mental health. The Minister has widespread support from Deputies across the House. Her call expresses our strongly held view and those of the organisations we represent, that the delivery of mental health services through the HSE requires a lead, who is accountable directly to you as CEO. There is an opportunity now to deliver a more effective model of service delivery with a National Director for Mental Health reporting directly to you, the CEO. This change enjoys widespread support in the Oireachtas and service organisations across the sector.

Our vision is of an Ireland where everyone can access the support they need in their community, to achieve their best possible mental health. The reinstatement of a National Director for Mental Health would be a step towards this vision. It would also strengthen the work being done under 'Sharing the Vision – A Mental Health Policy for everyone'.

I would be more than happy to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the need for this reinstatement in greater detail.

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Fiona Coyle

CEO

CC via email: Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly; Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Mary Butler