



# HSCPA

*Health and Social Care Professions Alliance*

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Ms Anne Rabbitte TD  
Minister of State Department of Children, Disability Equality and Integration

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]

21st<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Minister Rabbitte,

We are writing to you as members of the Health and Social Care Professions Alliance (HSCPA) in relation to serious professional concerns with regard to the governance and operationalisation of Health & Social Care Professionals (HSCPs) within CHO7 outside of direct line management HSCP governance structures.

The HSCPA is an alliance of professional bodies representing over 40,000 health and social care professionals in Ireland. We seek to promote our professions as partners in the planning, management and delivery of health and social care in Ireland. In doing so, we are committed to working towards a progressive, effective and efficient health service.

While the HSCPA is cognisant of the pressures that the HSE and your Department were under with regard to meeting the legal requirements of the Disability Act in relation to the Assessment of Need (AON) we continue to believe that the much needed reduction in waiting times must also be balanced against the impact that the process is having on frontline HSCP staff.

We are aware that HSCP staff in CHO7 have been directed to report to an administrator with the expectation that they would scan reports to address administrative shortfalls. HSCP staff have consistently

shown themselves to be flexible to service needs but we firmly believe that with extensive waiting lists for intervention it is not in the best interests of children or experienced HSCPs to be diverted to exclusively administrative tasks.

In addition to the above we are gravely concerned that HSCPs in CH07 received a direction they were to be redeployed as assessment officers. The specific concerns of the HSCPA in relation to this direction is as follows:

1. The Assessment Officer is supposed to make an independent determination as to whether or not the child has a disability based on the professional's assessment report. Involving HSCPs in both the assessment of the child and the determination means there is loss of independence in the AON process. We feel this contravenes the requirements of the Act.

2. The further redirection of HSCP staff away from frontline service delivery into an administrative role, coupled with the fact that this was done without consultation, is a source of great dissatisfaction and very hard to justify.

The HSCPA is seeking your support that HSCP clinicians in CHO7 and across the breadth of the HSE will be supported to re-focus their experience and expertise on providing assessment and intervention to children and not redeployed into administrative roles or roles beyond their scope of training or experience to meet shortfalls elsewhere.

We look forward to your response and support in relation to the above. The HSCPA is happy to engage with you to ensure that HSCPs continue to be core to meeting the needs of children and young people with disabilities.

Yours sincerely

Members of HSCPA



Michele Monahan  
Chairperson, Health and Social Care Professionals Alliance (HSCPA)



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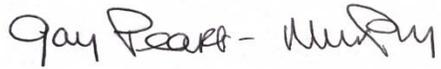
Aine McGuirk

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