



An Taoiseach,  
Mr Micheál Martin, TD  
Government Buildings  
Merrion St Upper  
Dublin 2

13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Taoiseach,

We, the undersigned members of Mental Health Reform, call on the Irish Government to prioritise funding our mental health services in the upcoming budget.

Over the last 18 months, our nation has faced challenges like never before. During the pandemic, your Government's focus has understandably been on tackling the direct impact of COVID-19. As we emerge from the pandemic, it is time to make mental health a national priority. Building a responsive mental health service will be a critical element in how our society rebuilds.

Before the crisis, many people with mental health difficulties were already struggling to access the basic support needed to stay well. COVID-19 has adversely affected the physical and mental well-being of many people in Ireland. Thousands more people have come forward to access mental health services during this difficult period. Evidence is emerging of a shadow pandemic, where the burden of trauma will have a profound impact on mental health and primary care services for many years. This needs a clear and comprehensive response from the Government, including a step-change in funding levels.


In order to achieve a credible budget for mental health in 2022, additional funding is required. This is essential to addressing the historical underinvestment in our mental health services, the impact of COVID-19 on mental health and to progress the implementation of our national mental health policy, *Sharing the Vision*. Mental Health Reform recommends that investment of at least €85M is needed to address these areas - €65M to be allocated to the development of new mental health services and €20M to meet the costs of existing levels of service.

Now more than ever we need a fit-for-purpose, responsive mental health system in which people can access the care they need when they need it. The future of our mental health services will be shaped by political action taken now. Together we can lead the world in delivering a COVID-19 recovery that puts the nation's mental health at its heart. We look forward to working with you to deliver on what we believe is our shared agenda.

Yours sincerely,

*Fiona Coyle*  
CEO  
Mental Health Reform

## Our Members' Signatures

1 	27	53
2	28	54
3	29	55
4	30	56
5	31	57
6	32	58
7	33	59
8	34	60
9	35	61
10	36	62
11	37	63
12	38	64
13	39	65
14	40	66
15	41	67
16	42	68
17	43	69
18	44	70
19	45	71
20	46	72
21	47	73
22	48	74
23	49	75
24	50	76
25	51	77
2	52	

