



**Press Release: Friday 2 August 2024**

## **PSI Welcomes the Publication of the Mental Health Bill**

**2 August 2024:** As the learned and professional body for the psychology profession in the Republic of Ireland, The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), welcomes the Minister for Mental Health and Older People's announcement of the publication of the Mental Health Bill 2024.

The new Mental Health Bill, which consists of 202 sections, introduces a modern and comprehensive legal framework that aims to ensure the rights and well-being of people accessing mental health services. Notably, this includes the regulation of all community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), marking a first in the oversight and standardization of these essential services.

PSI President, Dr Odhrán Mc Carthy expressed support for the Bill's publication, stating, "The Psychological Society of Ireland commends the Government and Minister Butler on the publication of the Mental Health Bill 2024. This Bill introduces a person-centred approach to mental health care, ensuring individuals have greater autonomy and involvement in decisions about their treatment. It is a crucial advancement for mental health services in Ireland."

The PSI looks forward to the Bill's introduction to the Oireachtas in September and its progression through the legislative process. The Society is optimistic that this legislation will bring about significant improvements in the delivery and regulation of mental health services, ultimately leading to better outcomes for all individuals accessing these services.

### **ENDS**

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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**Notes to the Editor:**

- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), with over 4,600 members, is the learned and professional body for the profession in the Republic of Ireland, with the primary object of advancing psychology as an applied science in Ireland and elsewhere.
- Connect with the PSI through [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).
- See the Department of Health press release [here](#).
- As per information from Minister Butler's office:
  - The Mental Health Bill will replace the existing Mental Health Acts 2001 – 2018 and is primarily based on the General Scheme of a Bill to amend the Mental Health Act, 2001, published by the Government in July 2021.
  - The Bill was subject to extensive consultation both during the current drafting process and prior to the publication of the General Scheme in July 2021, including ongoing consultation with the Mental Health Commission, regulator of mental health services, and the HSE, as the main provider of mental health provides in the State. Additionally, the Department of Health has consulted with other key stakeholders during its drafting such as the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland, the Psychological Society of Ireland, the HSE's Engagement and Recovery Team, the Irish Hospital Consultants Association, Mental Health Reform and the Ombudsman for Children. Minister Butler launched a public consultation prior to the publication of the General Scheme which received 100 written submissions, all of which were considered in full prior to the publication of the General Scheme.
  - Following completion of the drafting process with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, the Mental Health Bill 2024 now contains 202 sections (up from 197 prior to formatting/drafting changes made during the Quality Assurance process).