



Press Release – Wednesday 10 July 2024

For Immediate Release

The PSI supports the Mental Health Commission's concerns regarding non-compliance in Irish mental health care

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) echoes the concerns raised by Prof. Jim Lucey, State Inspector of Mental Services, regarding the [grave non-compliance of Ireland's acute mental health centres with minimum standards](#).

Prof. Lucey has highlighted a critical issue that affects the most vulnerable in our society. According to Prof. Lucey's report, one-third of Ireland's 66 acute mental health centres fall below the minimum compliance standards, meaning patients cannot be assured of privacy, therapeutic interventions, or safety.

The PSI is particularly alarmed by the findings of the Mental Health Commission, which reported the highest level of noncompliance ever recorded last year. The PSI advocates for full parity between general and mental health across Ireland's mental health services. To do this, the Society echoes Prof. Lucey's call for increased investment towards mental health from the health budget, from €1 per every €20 spent to €2 (10%). The World Health Organization recommends 12% of the total health budget be spent on mental health, in line with [Mental Health Reform's call to invest in Budget 2024](#).

More needs to be done to ensure a person-centred, human rights-based approach to mental health. The over-reliance on pharmacological interventions due to staff shortages and inadequate therapeutic services is of significant concern. It is imperative to focus on delivering comprehensive mental health support that prioritises psycho-social aspects of care and reduces focus on medicalisation.

The PSI calls on the Government to act on the promises made regarding mental health care. The forthcoming Mental Health Bill must be published and implemented with a genuine commitment to improving conditions in all mental health facilities, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and community services.

The PSI stands ready to collaborate with the Government, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to bring about the necessary changes. The current system is not working, and to support staff and patients alike, greater investment and full compliance are necessary. It is time to transform our mental health services to ensure they are safe, therapeutic, and conducive to recovery for all individuals.

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 4,500 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 their [website](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).
- See more information on PSI press releases [here](#) and advocacy items [here](#).