



Press Release – 01 August 2024

For Immediate Release

The PSI welcomes the new Health Information Bill 2024 and implementation of digital health records

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), as the learned and professional body for the profession of psychology, welcomes the recent publication of the Health Information Bill 2024, which it deems a significant step towards improving patient access to their own health information and supporting integrated, informed care.

[Bill 2024](#) aims to facilitate increased access to health information for patients and streamlined sharing of information amongst healthcare providers. This supports a more coordinated and efficient approach to care, allowing patients to make informed decisions about their health and providing health professionals with a more comprehensive understanding of their patients.

Access to accurate health information is crucial for effective psychological services, and the PSI hopes that this Bill will improve the quality of mental health care in Ireland. It has the potential to give patients greater involvement in their own care and allow psychologists, including The PSI's 4,629 members, and other healthcare professionals to collaborate more effectively, providing patients with a more inclusive and supportive healthcare experience. In this way, the Bill aligns with the PSI's commitment to a person-centred, human rights-based approach to care.

The Bill is a key component of the [Digital for Care: A Digital Health Framework for Ireland 2024 – 2030](#), underpinning the Health Service Executive's (HSE) efforts to consolidate health information across various care settings. By implementing digital health records, Ireland will also fulfil its obligations under the forthcoming European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation, which aims to revolutionise health data access and usage across Europe.

The PSI recognises the importance of protecting patient privacy and data security and is pleased to see that the Bill includes robust protections for primary health information use. These measures are essential to maintain trust and confidence in the digital health ecosystem.

As the Bill progresses through the legislative process, the PSI looks forward to engaging with policymakers to ensure that the unique needs of mental health professionals and patients are fully addressed. We continue our commitment to work that supports a more integrated, efficient, and patient-centred healthcare system in Ireland.

ENDS.

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

Lucy Brennan

PSI Media and Content Coordinator

communications@psychologicalsociety.ie

+353 87 755 2409

Notes to the editor:

- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), with 4,629 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](#).