



Press Release – 03 October 2024

For Immediate Release

The Psychological Society of Ireland Reiterates Calls for Greater Investment in Mental Health as Budget 2025 Falls Short of Addressing Growing and Urgent Needs

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) acknowledges the increase in mental health funding announced in Budget 2025, bringing the total allocation to almost €1.5 billion, up from €1.3 billion in Budget 2024. While this represents an increase from Budget 2024's [5.7% allocation of the health budget](#) to 5.8%, it falls short of addressing the growing and urgent needs within our mental health services.

The PSI recognises the Government's meaningful commitment to increasing mental health funding. Investments of €2.5 million for staffing for CAMHs teams, €5.7 million for National Clinical Programmes (NCPs), €2 million for Counselling in Primary Care, and €1 million for Traveller mental health and suicide prevention are welcomed and these are positive steps forward for the future of mental health services.

However, the PSI remains concerned that this increase still does not meet the critical levels of investment required to fully address the gaps in care, particularly in a system that continues to struggle with long waiting times, workforce shortages, and service accessibility. The PSI urges the Government to go further in addressing the pressing needs in mental health services.

The emphasis from Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Ms Mary Butler, with regard to enhancing youth mental health services, clinical programmes, and the implementation of [Sharing the Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone](#) is welcomed and encouraged. The PSI recognises the positive strides made through this enhanced investment.

The PSI [Pre-Budget Submission for Budget 2025](#) outlined three key areas that must be prioritised to ensure sustainable and meaningful progress in Ireland's mental health sector:

1. Increase the mental health budget to 10% of the health budget

The PSI, with other stakeholders including [Mental Health Reform](#), continues to advocate for mental health spending to reach 10% of the total health budget, [in line with](#)

[international best practice](#). While the increase to €1.5 billion is commendable, further investment is crucial to support preventive care, reduce waiting lists, and provide comprehensive services that meet the evolving needs of our population.

2. Full implementation of *Sharing the Vision*

The PSI urges the Government to expedite its full implementation. Since its publication in 2020, [only 48 of the 100 policy recommendations have progressed, and only three have been fully completed](#). The PSI calls for dedicated funding and resources to bring all aspects of this national strategy to fruition, ensuring a person-centred, accessible, and integrated approach to mental health care.

3. Commitment to parity between general and mental health by increasing pay for Psychology Assistants to €33,598 per annum

The PSI submission underscored the urgent need to address systemic inequality between general and mental health, particularly in the case of Psychology Assistants, as [their pay is currently less than other equivalent 'Assistant' roles in the Health Service Executive \(HSE\)](#). Increasing their base salary to €33,598 per annum would rectify this disparity and ensure the development of a well-supported workforce.

The increase in funding is acknowledged by the PSI; however, much more needs to be done. The challenges facing our mental health system are substantial, and without a more ambitious financial commitment and a clear plan for full implementation of key strategies, the current system will continue to fall short of meeting the needs of Ireland's population.

PSI President, Dr Odhrán Mc Carthy stated, "The Psychological Society of Ireland urges the Government to take these concerns seriously and commit to a mental health system that is not only person-centred and human-rights-based but also fully resourced, transparent, and equipped to meet the ever-increasing demand for 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 4,800 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.

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