



Pictured (l-r) PSI President Dr Anne Kehoe, CEO of MHR Fiona Coyle & CEO of PSI Sheena Horgan taking part in Mental Health Reform's I Am A Reason campaign calling on the Government to invest an additional €115M in Ireland's mental health services in Budget 2024. Photo credit - Conor McCabe.

## Psychological Society of Ireland supports Mental Health Reform's call on Government to invest in mental health in Budget 2024

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) strongly supports the Mental Health Reform (MHR) call on the Government to invest an additional €115 million in Ireland's mental health services for Budget 2024.

As a member organisation of MHR, the PSI is behind the call for €30 million to maintain existing services and €85 million towards the development of new services that will drive change in the system. Using the campaign slogan 'I Am A Reason', MHR aims to highlight the many reasons, such as the importance of timely, high-quality mental health supports and the need for sustainable and multi-annual funding for the voluntary and community sector, as to why the Government should invest in mental health in Budget 2024.

As per MHR's [Pre-Budget Submission to Government](#), this year the national mental health budget represents only 5.1% of the total health budget, compared to the United Kingdom's spend of 13% - 14%. In the 2017 [Sláintecare Report](#), it was recommended to 'Ring-fence at least 10% of the health budget to mental health' – this is not being implemented.

PSI Chief Executive Officer Sheena Horgan, who joined MHR for the launch of the 'I Am A Reason' campaign says: "With the 10% spend on mental health being a stated but not realised commitment by Government, more needs to be done. Irish society and citizens are paying the price for the unsustainable situation we find ourselves in - decreased resources despite increased demand for supports and services."

In PSI pre-budget submissions for the last number of years, the Society has been calling on the Government to fund Ireland's psychological future. The key to the delivery of high-quality psychological services is the sufficient availability of skilled and trained personnel; however, there are major shortfalls in the provision of psychological services due to inadequate staffing levels resulting in long waiting lists and significant difficulties in both the recruitment and retention of trained staff. One of the key factors is the inadequate number of funded post-graduate training places.

The PSI is urging Government to fund an additional 50 trainee psychology posts across the professional doctoral programmes for a five-year period which would necessitate an additional €2.52 million in funding per year (€12.6 million over five years). To coordinate the management and placement of current and increased numbers of trainees, the Government must fund with immediate effect and mandate the Health Service Executive to enact the establishment of their own recommendations for the establishment of a National Psychology Placement Office, which has been costed as requiring funding of €770,000 per year.

The Psychological Society of Ireland is again calling on Government in Budget 2024 to provide multi-annual funding to address the significant gaps in Ireland's psychological workforce.

**ENDS.**

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

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Points to note:

- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), with over 4,000 members, is the learned and professional body for the profession in the Republic of Ireland, with the primary objective of advancing psychology as an applied science in Ireland and elsewhere.
- Connect with the PSI through the [Society website](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).