



Statement – Tuesday 22 February 2022

Psychological Society of Ireland concerned at Government's delay in establishing Citizens' Assembly on Drug Use

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) is concerned at the delay in holding a citizens' assembly on drug use, which was expected to take place this year but has now been pushed to 2023. In June 2020, the five-year *Programme for Government* document included pledges to convene citizens' assemblies on drug use, the type of directly elected mayor and local government structures best suited for Dublin, as well as biodiversity.

Recent indications from Government are that the Citizens' Assembly on Drug Use will take place next year, after the citizens' assemblies on the Dublin mayoralty and biodiversity are complete.

PSI president Dr Vincent McDarby says: "The Psychological Society of Ireland regrets the Government's intention to delay the Citizens' Assembly on Drug Use. The Society supports the proposed amendment from Senator Lynn Ruane calling for an end to the delay in the establishment of such an important, and much needed, citizens' assembly. It is vital that the State response to drug use and abuse is improved, and to bring forward such proposals in that regard".

The amendment from Senator Ruane is to be debated on Wednesday, 23 February 2022, in the Oireachtas.