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Psychological Society of Ireland calls on Government to fund Ireland's psychological future in 2021 Budget

- **Additional Psychologists in Primary Care Centres for children & adults would tackle appointment waiting lists**
- **Call for additional Psychologists in HSE School Age Disability Teams & Early Intervention Teams**
- **Call for funding of Trainee Educational and Trainee Counselling Psychologists**

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) has outlined the need for funding of psychologists in the Society's Pre-Budget 2021 Submission, 'Fund Ireland's Psychological Future Now', which has been submitted to the Department of Finance ahead of next month's 2021 Budget.

'Fund Ireland's Psychological Future Now' clearly outlines the positive impact that could be expected from having just one additional Psychologist in every Primary Care Centre for children and adults. As of January this year, numbers on waiting lists for Primary Care appointments exceeded the 10,000 mark. Funding of 138 additional Psychologists in Primary Care Centres for children and a further 138 for adults would allow for over 11,000 additional appointments to help tackle the backlog.

The PSI is firmly committed to the Government's Sláintecare strategy and is supportive of the primacy of the need to provide accessible and timely care in the community. In the context of the psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, funding of additional primary care psychology posts would:

- assist with creating a responsive front-line mental health service;
- reduce waiting lists for primary intervention;
- alleviate pressures on specialist services.

Mark Smyth, PSI President, says: “On the day that the PSI Pre-Budget 2021 submission was finalised it was heartening to hear An Taoiseach Micheál Martin acknowledge the need for additional funding to address the mental health impact that COVID-19 is having on our nation. This funding is needed now, without delay. People are suffering, they need support and they need it immediately. The time to fund Ireland’s psychological future is now, not when our primary care, mental health and disability services are more overwhelmed than they already are. We have a roadmap for addressing how to cope with COVID, now we need a road map for how we will help people cope with their mental health.”

ENDS.

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

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Note to Editor

- [Click here](#) to view the PSI’s Pre-Budget 2021 Submission – ‘Fund Ireland’s Psychological Future Now’
- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), with circa 3,100 members, is the learned and professional body for Psychology in the Republic of Ireland