



Press release – 09.05.2019

## **Psychological Society of Ireland welcomes establishment of permanent Oireachtas Mental Health Committee**

The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) has welcomed the news that a permanent Oireachtas Mental Health Committee is to be established.

PSI President Ian O’Grady said: “For far too long mental health services have been the Cinderella of our health services in terms of funding and direct political action. At a time when we have had more mental health awareness and stigma-reducing campaigns, it is an incredible source of frustration that the appropriate resources to meet the needs of people looking for help have not been put in place alongside these campaigns.

“If we advocate that someone takes that first step in seeking support for their mental health then, as a society, we need to make sure we are ready and willing to listen and help when needed.

“Having a permanent Oireachtas Mental Health Committee, we hope, will ensure that mental health will have parity of esteem with regard to the resourcing, structure, and governance of our mental health services.”

The PSI looks forward to having the opportunity to present to, and consult with, the Oireachtas to assist with providing a sound evidence-base for the reforms that are necessary to make mental health services accessible, equitable and responsive to the needs of whoever requires support.

**ENDS.**

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

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To note:

- The Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) is the learned and professional body for psychology in the Republic of Ireland. Established in 1970, the Society currently has almost 3,000 members;
- The PSI is committed to maintaining high standards of practice in psychology and also to exploring new and innovative ways of furthering psychology as an applied science.