



The College of Psychiatry of Ireland

Coláiste Síciatrachta na hÉireann

Statement on behalf of the College of Psychiatry of Ireland

The College of Psychiatry of Ireland has met and decided that the circumstances in which the invitation to participate in The Late Late Show programme on 25th September 2009 was extended preclude our involvement.

We have significant concerns that issues to be discussed should not be before a live audience on an entertainment programme that includes families recently and tragically bereaved. Attributing cause to these events before inquests are held is prejudicial to due process and natural justice and runs a real risk of misleading and premature conclusions. The potential for harm of misleading conclusions to persons in distress seeking appropriate help is enormous.

We recognise that families in these circumstances have real and pressing questions and an urgent human need to have these addressed and answered. We would encourage and assist these families to carefully seek qualified professional opinion. We are available to contribute to the issues raised in a suitable and appropriate format.

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