



College of Psychiatrists of Ireland response to Budget 2024

- **‘Ultimately this will be seen as a backward step for the provision of mental health treatment in this country’**

Tuesday October 10 2023. The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland has dismissed Budget 2024 as a “backward step” for the provision of mental health treatment in Ireland, adding the current level of funding and resourcing would lead to increased doctor burnout and, ultimately, negative impacts on patients.

Speaking today, **Dr Lorcan Martin, President of the College of Psychiatrists and a consultant in general adult psychiatry**, said: “Before the Budget, the College warned that a detailed plan for doctor recruitment and retention and significantly increased funding were urgently needed to give patients the care they need. Regrettably, on World Mental Health Day, the Government has not delivered in this Budget, and ultimately this will be seen as a backward step for the provision of mental health treatment in this country.

“The College is disappointed to note that mental health funding has not increased in line with our recommendations, and meaningful connections between psychiatry and primary services have not been established. We still await the introduction of a modern IT and electronic patient record system, and the government has not re-established the role of Mental Health Director and the Mental Health Division to include the current Clinical Lead for CAMHS and Youth.”

Editors’ note:

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is the professional and training body for psychiatrists in Ireland and represents 1,200 professional psychiatrists (both specialists and trainees) across the country. To become a specialist (consultant) psychiatrist, a candidate requires six years of medical school study, as well as a minimum of seven years of specialist training with the College.

ENDS

Issued on behalf of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland by Gordon MRM

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