CPSYCHI
COLLEGE OF
PSYCHIATRISTS
OF IRELAND

5 Herbert Street, Dublin
D02 CK68
Tel: 01 661 8450
www.irishpsychiatry.ie

Press Statement **Wednesday 30 July 2025**

College of Psychiatrists of Ireland welcomes categorisation of HHC as a Schedule 1 drug

Wednesday 30 July 2025. The College of Psychiatrists welcomes the announcement by the Department of Health (29th July) that HHC is now classified as an illegal drug.

As has been highlighted, in just a few years it has caused major harm to the mental health of many people. The announcement is a very positive and sensible move to prevent further harm and suffering.

However, the concern now is that the entrepreneurs supplying and selling this drug will replace it with new similar psychoactive products that are equally harmful but not classified as illegal.

“We know from experience with head shops in 2010 that they quickly replace specific banned substances with psychoactive drugs which are not yet illegal. We must be vigilant to the possibility of this happening again and address this rapidly if it does so” says specialist addiction consultant psychiatrist, Professor Bobby Smyth, Chair, Faculty of Addiction Psychiatry.

The College notes and welcomes Minister Carroll McNeill’s commitment “… to reviewing legal avenues to respond faster and more effectively to emerging threats from the volatile drugs market". The Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Act (2010) was commenced to prohibit sale of all psychoactive drugs and succeeded in closing down virtually all head shops immediately. If there are issues in implementing this legislation in practice for HHC and emerging similar products, then solutions must be found.

ENDS

Editors’ notes:

College of Psychiatrists of Ireland

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland is the professional and training body for psychiatrists in Ireland and represents 1,300 professional psychiatrists (both specialists and trainees) across the country. To become a specialist doctor in psychiatry (specialist consultant psychiatrist) a doctor must complete between six to seven years of the College training programme.

ENDS