CPSYCHI
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Press Statement **Wednesday, 8th October 2025**

College of Psychiatrists reaction to Budget 2026

- **College emphasises importance of funding being provided without delay**

- **It is critical that mental health budget is increased to 12% of overall health budget**

The College of Psychiatrists of Ireland (CPsychI) has today welcomed the announcement in Budget 2026 of increased staffing and expansion of mental health services but warned this must happen as an urgent priority while increasing the mental health budget.

The College said that the speed of implementing these new measures will be key to gauging their success. Given the increase in costs associated with delivering services in recent years, the decisions made yesterday will be meaningless without continued focus and sustained, improved funding. There are ever increasing demands associated with psychiatry in Ireland, and the Budget may help plug the gap, but it will not solve the problem.

The College also cautioned that its allocation of the overall health budget remains too low and should be brought up to, at minimum, 12% of the overall allocated budget for health. At present the mental health budget stands at approximately 7% of the overall health budget.

Speaking today, Dr Lorcan Martin, President of CPsychI, said: “We thank Minister Butler for her work on this Budget and the improvements that will hopefully be made to mental health services as a result. That said the College believes more can be done to bring mental health services in this country up to the standard it should be at.

“The mental health portion of the overall health budget should be at 12%. Despite the pledge of €27.4bn for health, we are still a long way away from hitting this target. We await measures that will make a permanent difference to the mental health of Irish people.”

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

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

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