

**Press Release - Post photo-call and meeting between Minister for Health and Children and the Regulatory Forum (Jan 25 2010).**

**For immediate release:** 25 January 2010

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**Title:** *Health and Social Care Regulators Plans to Increase Public Involvement in Regulation.*

The Health and Social Care Regulatory Forum of Chief Executives met today with the Minister for Health and Children to present her with a copy of their new on-line publication entitled **Framework for Public and Service User Involvement in Health and Social Care Regulation in Ireland (December 2009)**. The Forum was established in 2008 to provide a mechanism for exploring opportunities to harmonise certain business processes, share best practice and facilitate coordination between member organisations.

The Forum Acting Chair, Mr Pat O' Mahony, outlined to the Minister that the initiative to publish the framework came from consideration of the provisions in recent legislation for greater public involvement on boards/councils and generally in the regulation of the health and social care professions. He assured the Minister that agencies were fully committed to delivering greater public/service user involvement and that each agency would be implementing policies to do so.

He also referred to plans aimed at greater collaboration between the regulators which includes Committees set up to examine shared services, Joint Education and Training Programmes for Board/Council members, Assessors and Staff; coordination of the recommendations of the *Report of the Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance* and coordination of responses to European Union issues including directives.

The Minister welcomes the Forum's plans to inform the public of the standards of care they should expect to receive from the professions, "internationally, those countries with the best public services and indeed health care systems have very high levels of citizen empowerment. This commitment by the regulators to more open and transparent means of communication can only have a positive outcome for the public and service user."

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors**

The publication is available on all of the Forum member's websites (from Jan 25).

An Bord Altranais - [www.nursingboard.ie](http://www.nursingboard.ie)

Dental Council - [www.dentalcouncil.ie](http://www.dentalcouncil.ie)

Food Safety Authority Ireland - [www.fsai.ie](http://www.fsai.ie)

Health and Safety Authority – [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

Health and Social Care Professionals Council – [www.hscpc.ie](http://www.hscpc.ie)  
Health Information and Quality Authority – [www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie)  
Irish Medicines Board – [www.imb.ie](http://www.imb.ie)  
Medical Council – [www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie)  
Mental Health Commission – [www.mhcirl.ie](http://www.mhcirl.ie)  
National Social Work Qualifications Board – [www.nswqb.ie](http://www.nswqb.ie)  
Opticians Board – [www.opticiansboard.ie](http://www.opticiansboard.ie)  
Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland – [www.pharmaceuticalsociety.ie](http://www.pharmaceuticalsociety.ie)  
Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council – [www.phecit.ie](http://www.phecit.ie)  
Radiological Protection Institute – [www.rpii.ie](http://www.rpii.ie)  
Veterinary Council – [www.vci.ie](http://www.vci.ie)

Members of the Regulatory Forum that attended the Photo-call:

1. Pat O'Mahony – Irish Medicines Board
2. Ambrose McLoughlin – Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
3. Alan Reilly – Food Safety Authority
4. Hugh Kane – Mental Health Commission
5. Martin O'Halloran – Health and Safety Authority
6. Ginny Hanrahan – Health and Social Care Professionals Council
7. Eilis Walsh – National Social Work Qualifications Board
8. David O'Flynn – Dental Council