

News Release



Commission publishes Inquiry Report on Central Mental Hospital

The Mental Health Commission, today, Wednesday, 10th January, 2007, published the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Current Care and Treatment Practices in the Central Mental Hospital, Dublin.

Following the report on the facility by the Inspector of Mental Health Services in 2004, the Commission, decided to establish an Inquiry, (as per Section 55, Mental Health Act 2001) to review the current care and treatment practices in the Central Mental Hospital. This decision is in line with the Commission's mandate to promote, encourage and foster the establishment and maintenance of high standards and good practices in mental health services.

The Inquiry was established in April 2005, and the report completed and submitted to the Commission in November 2006. Following consideration by the Commission, the report and its recommendations were endorsed in December 2006.

The Commission wishes to thank the members of the committee, Dr. Janet Parrott, Dr. Teresa Carey, Dr. Susan Finnerty, Mr. Des McMorrow and Mr. Douglas McInnes.

The report of the Inquiry Committee highlights a number of unacceptable practices that require urgent attention and change by the Health Service Executive and the local management team.

Following the publication of the Report today, the Mental Health Commission will be writing immediately to the Health Service Executive seeking a detailed action plan from them with specific timeframes to address the areas of concern.

The Inspectorate of Mental Health Services will inspect the services in the Central Mental Hospital at least three times this year and report to the Commission on the progress and effectiveness of the action plan.

The Commission, as the statutory regulatory body for mental health services, will ensure that the service provided complies with the regulations and rules pursuant to the Mental Health Act 2001 and that high standards of care are being practised and maintained.

Since November 1 2006, the Commission has responsibility for establishing and maintaining a register of approved centres. The MHC can now attach conditions to registration of centres or remove a centre from the register, if required.

ENDS

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Editor's Note:

The Mental Health Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 2001 has the statutory function to promote, encourage and foster the establishment and maintenance of high standards and good practices in the delivery of mental health services. This responsibility encompasses the broad spectrum of mental health services from childhood to adulthood to later life.

Dr. John Owens, Dr. Susan Finnerty and Dr. Janet Parrott will be available for media interviews from 2.00pm on Wednesday afternoon January 10th.