

New Memorandum of Understanding between HIQA and Mental Health Commission

Monday 23 September 2013: The Health Information and Quality Authority and the Mental Health Commission have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on working together in relation to the regulation of health, social care and mental health services in Ireland.

The new MOU aims to promote collaboration in areas of joint strategic and operational interest, facilitate cooperation on the referral of concerns, which may fall under the remit of the other organisation and enhance formal communication and information sharing activities for the benefit of patients and other people using these services.

Patricia Gilheaney, Chief Executive of the Commission, welcomed the development and said: "The Mental Health Commission promotes the highest standards in the delivery of mental health services and ensures the interests of those who are involuntarily admitted to Approved Centres are protected. This MOU will assist the two organisations to work in the best interest of people using services."

Dr Tracey Cooper, Chief Executive of the Authority, said: "This MOU will underpin future collaboration between us and more formally shape relations where some regulatory overlap may occur. We are delighted to put already informal cooperation between the two organisations on a more formal basis."

This MOU will be reviewed to ensure that both organisations work together in the most beneficial way in the coming years.

Ends

For further information:

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Mental Health Commission, please contact: Aoibheann O'Sullivan, 01 4980346 / 087 6291453.

Note to editors:

- The Mental Health Commission (MHC) was established in 2002 as an independent statutory body under the Mental Health Act, 2001 and its functions are set out by the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 2001.
- The MHC is responsible for regulating and monitoring mental health services in Ireland as defined by the Mental Health Act, 2001. The Commission's remit includes general adult mental health services, as well as mental health services for children and adolescents, older people, people with intellectual disabilities and forensic mental health services.
- The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) was established under the Health Act 2007 as amended and is the independent authority established to drive continuous improvements in Ireland's health and social care services.
- HIQA's mandate extends across the quality and safety of the public, private (within its social care function) and voluntary sectors.