



## **Tomás Murphy appointed to Mental Health Commission**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019** The Mental Health Commission (MHC) has today welcomed Minister of State Jim Daly's announcement that he has appointed Mr Tomás Murphy to the Mental Health Commission. Mr Murphy takes up the role this month, until April 2022.

Commenting on the appointment John Farrelly, Chief Executive of the Mental Health Commission said, "Tomás has considerable experience in the area of mental health services and has dedicated much of his focus to the ongoing development of those services. I am delighted that he is on board and look forward to working closely with him and the existing Commission members to continue to bring about high standards and good practices in mental health service provision."

Chairman of the Commission, John Saunders added: "Throughout his career Tomás has been a key player in enacting positive, constructive change in Ireland's mental health services. His determination to see an improvement in the services reflects the remit of the Mental Health Commission and so I am very pleased to see him appointed today."

Mr Murphy is Chair of the regional *Connecting for Life* steering group. He was also previously president of the Mental Health Nurse Managers Ireland group.

Mr Murphy qualified as a mental health nurse at the University of Herts, UK, graduating in 2001. He has a wide range of other qualifications, including a PgDip and MSc in Mental Health, both from Trinity College Dublin; a Certificate in Nurse Prescribing from Royal College of Surgeons Ireland; and an MSc in Executive Leadership from the University of Ulster. He also previously studied at the Global Leadership Institute in Boston College.

In 2013 Murphy was appointed Area Director of Mental Health Nursing for Sligo/Leitrim/South Donegal/West Cavan Mental Health Services. In this role he has overseen the development and re-organisation of those counties' mental health services. He has also overseen the development of the first 7-day community mental health nursing services to be based in primary care settings.

**ENDS**

**Issued by Murray on behalf of the Mental Health Commission**

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**Notes to the Editor****About the Mental Health Commission**

The Mental Health Commission is an independent statutory body. The primary functions of the Mental Health Commission are to foster and promote high standards of care and good practice in the delivery of mental health services and to ensure that the interests of those involuntarily admitted are protected, pursuant to the Mental Health Act 2001.

To operate an in-patient mental health service in Ireland, the service must be registered as an 'approved centre' with the Mental Health Commission. Upon registration the service must comply with regulations made under the Mental Health Act 2001. Failure to comply with regulations may result in enforcement action including: corrective and preventative action plans, an immediate action notice, a regulatory compliance meeting, registration conditions, removal from the register (closure) and prosecution.