



**College of Psychiatrists
of Ireland**

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Press Statement 24th June 2014

College of Psychiatrists asks that Independent Oversight of Implementation of National Policy on Mental Health Services be Reinstated

The contents of the reports published by the Mental Health Commission this week once again emphasise the lack of physical and staff resources available to vulnerable people with mental illness. The reports support the experience of frontline psychiatrists that progress on the full introduction of the national policy 'A Vision for Change' remains uneven and slow.

Data to judge the exact situation is very difficult to access. No independent group with power to insist on the stakeholders providing data now exists. The final term and report of the Independent Monitoring Group established following publication of 'A Vision for Change' was in 2012.

The College of Psychiatrists asks again for the Government to act on the recommendation of that group, that an independent monitoring process with statutory powers be established so that all those with an interest in people with mental illness having access to appropriate services, wherever they live and based on need, can judge progress and ask for action where deficits exist.

(See link to IMG final report:

http://www.dohc.ie/publications/vision_for_change_6th/hse_nat_reg/final_6th_annual_report)

The College supports the idea that the Mental Health Commission is the appropriate body to do this. As the Mental Health Act is currently being reviewed this is an opportune time for the appropriate statutory powers and resources to be given to the Commission to establish and deliver a data based monitor of policy delivery nationally.

Ends

Contact

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