



8th February 2012

Dear Doctor

I take the unprecedented step of writing to you on the occasion of the publication of the report of the Steering Group on the National Substance Misuse Strategy. It focused primarily on alcohol use and misuse and constituted of a wide variety of stakeholders under my chairmanship, including many significant leaders within the medical profession.

It is my intention in publishing this report that it facilitates a healthy public debate following which we will bring final proposals to Government in the next 2-3 months.

As a medical practitioner, you will be aware of the devastating effects of alcohol use and misuse on the health and social wellbeing of the people of Ireland. The report of the Steering Group sets this evidence out very clearly.

The purpose of my writing to you is to encourage you to participate locally and nationally, either on an individual basis or through your professional colleges, in the public debate. The healthy and constructive input of medical practitioners who are well placed to understand the issues involved is essential to balanced debate.

I look forward to your support in this vital public health issue.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

Dr Tony Holohan
Chief Medical Officer

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