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To whom it may concern,

Firstly I would like to this opportunity to express my thanks that a forum exists that I can outline my concerns with the propose legislation. I wish to publicly state I have no objection to this paper being in the public domain as I have no desire for it to be anonymous. This week I received a letter from the Addiction Counselors of Ireland I am now a pre-accredited member. My wife this morning could not get over my complete lack of joy upon opening the letter. She reminded me I worked hard and so many sacafices were made.

I started training in 2012 my course in the first year was an addiction study. Year two was undertaking of three months in a treatment center followed by three months in outreach program. This was followed by three workshops based on addiction. Then I had to do 50 hours of personal counselling and also 25 hours of supervision. In addition I presented a very extensive dissertation. I also presented relapse interviews recorded, and coded, as well as motivationally interview, in the same order coded and recorded. I wish to state, I object to none of it, as it was an excellent course.

In addition to this, I have spent one year as a volunteer counselor, and I have done perhaps over 400 sessions or more, as well as initial assessments. I have also spent six additional months in a treatment center working alongside the treatment team. I am currently on an employer based program so I can further develop my skills as a professional therapist. Thankfully I received

excellent feedback within teams I have been involved with. My line managers have written on record that I meet all the core skills required to be a competent addiction counselor.

My issue with the propose legislation is this, I am aware of persons, who have my qualification but also have a level 8 in none therapeutic courses and meet accreditation requirements. Which is ridiculous to my mind I too have other qualifications in healthcare surely that's more appropriate than say a level 8 in business. I am quite frankly outrage by this.

The future legislation states QQI award at a minimum for entry into CORU. This week I have applied to the Irish college of humanities which meets with the QQI requirements. It is not satisfactory with (Irish Association for counselling and Psychotherapy). I have no doubt they be defending a ridiculous position with some absurd reasoning. I have chosen psychotherapy as it was recommended by my supervisor. This would possible enhance my employment opportunities. Despite all the academic work and further 450 hours of training I cannot apply to ICAP as they don't recognize the course yet it meets with the proposed legislation and QQI requirements.

The only solution I can see working practically is a completely government controlled. For example say you are license by CORU. In a similar way such as the Private Security Authority, every two years you renew your license. The procedure would involve Gardaí vetting and a reasonable cost such as the PSA license. The major gripe that the objector, will come forward with is perhaps the necessity for workshops each year. This too could be managed within CORU.

I like to think I am reasonable man yet I find no understanding of the biased policy that currently exist. This week I should be celebrating being a fully accredited addiction counselor. I

should be starting a course that allows me to join (ICAP). After all (ICHAS) meets standards. I have tried to explain the current position by these organization to others. The response is always the same you think a bit of common sense would prevail how I wish it did.