



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

HSE Addiction Service
Dublin North City & County – CHO 9
Ballymun Healthcare Facility
Ballymun
Dublin 9.

28 November 2016,

Public Consultation
Professional Regulation Unit
Department of Health
Hawkins House,
Dublin 2

Re: Representation to the Minister for Health concerning the regulation of Counsellors and Psychotherapists under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005

Dear Mr Simon Harris TD,

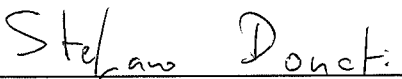
I am writing to you on the behalf of the counsellors and psychotherapists of the Health Service Executive Addiction Service CHO 9.

1. We propose that the professions of counsellor and psychotherapist ought to be subjected to State regulation.
2. We propose that the professions of counsellor and psychotherapist ought to be regulated under the Health and Social Care Professional Act 2005 or otherwise.
3. We propose that the professions of counsellor and psychotherapists ought to be regulated under one registration board.
4. We propose that the appropriate level of grand parenting qualification in counseling and psychotherapy for existing practitioners having regard to the QQI Awards standards ought to be set at level 7.
At present the HSE requires counsellors and psychotherapists working in the publicly funded health sector to have minimum qualifications set by it under the Health Act 2004, and an active accreditation with a professional body such as the Addiction Counsellors of Ireland, the Irish Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy or the Irish Council for Psychotherapy, and have a minimum of 2 years full time experience of working in a counselling setting.

It follows that the counsellors and psychotherapists currently employed by the HSE met de facto the minimum requirements for grand parenting qualifications.

5. We propose that the minimum level of qualification to be set for future applicants for registration having regard to the QQI Awards standards ought to be set to level 8 degree in counseling and psychotherapy.
However, this ought not to be implemented for those currently undertaking accredited courses. We propose that from September 2018 students must complete level 8 degree as minimum educational requirement to be registered.
6. We propose that the titles counsellor and psychotherapist ought to be protected for the exclusive use of the registrants

Yours sincerely,



Stefano Donati
Senior Counsellor