

Dear Sir or Madam,

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> In response to the invitation for submissions extended by the Minister on the consultative process of statutory regulation, I would like to raise some questions for consideration. I am a student psychotherapist due to qualify in May next year on a BA Hons Counselling & Psychotherapy Degree programme (Level 8 on QQI National Framework).

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> Q1. What provision will be made for those students who entered a professional training (accredited by IACP) prior to the QQI draft being presented? e.g I entered my training in September 2013 before this draft was issued and prior to it being included in the consultative process.

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> Q2. To what extent will academic and professional requirements outlined by the professional bodies e.g IACP in my case be allowed to stand in the case of students mid-way through the training process (some already practising as trainee psychotherapists in clinical placements as is required). If the former requirements set out by IACP become null and void, can the transitional period be extended beyond 2 years to allow for those who will be inconvenienced financially and personally by the need to achieve additional client hours and training e.g Masters at Level 9.?

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> Q3.a) What will be done to protect existing clients of practitioners who may be faced with having to meet additional requirements (post transitional period) while they are engaging as a vulnerable person in their therapeutic process?

> Q3.b) By extension to the above question, what measures will be put in place at government level to determine personal suitability for a practitioner to sit with a vulnerable client - there appears to be more focus being put on level of academic achievement, client contact hours and numbers, along with the interpretation of titles rather than the capability of a practitioner to establish the therapeutic relationship?

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> I am grateful to the Minister and the Department for being given a forum to air my views and ask questions on the consultative process concerning statutory regulation and would be obliged if what I have outlined can be given due consideration.

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> Kind regards,

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> Wayne

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