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**Background**

The background and proposed amendments to the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005, which are the subject of this public consultation, are set out in sections 1 and 2 of the Public Consultation Document, which can be found here (insert link to consultation on gov.ie).

**Privacy Notice / Data Protection**

This survey is aimed at social care work practitioners, representative organisations, service providers, service recipients and other relevant stakeholders. The survey is being conducted by the Irish Department of Health. A report will be prepared based on the responses to this survey, however, individual responses will not be reported. Any personal information submitted to the Department will be treated strictly in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Please note people can request to see the submissions we receive under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 so information provided in the survey may be released in response to an FOI request. This is more likely to happen with responses from organisations. This means that the requestor might receive your answers to the survey, however, any personal information included in responses would be redacted prior to release. If you have any queries, please e-mail opendisclosurepolicy@health.gov.ie.

**Survey outline**

This survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete. Excluding information about you, the survey asks 7 questions. Each can be responded to by indicating your agreement/disagreement on a five-point scale or by setting out the risk/benefits of the proposal. Question 2.7 presents *yes, no or no opinion* answer options.  A free text box for each question is provided as well as one at the end of the survey for any other related issue you would like to raise.

**Section 1** asks about your details

**Section 2** contains 7 questions

**Closing date**

The survey will be live from 11 November 2022 until the 9 December 2022.

1. **YOUR DETAILS**

**1.1** Are you completing this survey:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | In a personal capacity |
|  | As an authorised representative of an organisation/body, expressing the views of that organisation/body. |

**Note:** If you are providing the views of an organisation, it is necessary that you provide your organisation name, your position, and your name at 1.2 - 1.4 below.

If answering in a personal capacity, please skip to Q 1.5.

**1.2** What organisation do you work for?

**1.3** What Is your position?

**1.4** What is your name?

**1.5 Please select the relevant category that best describes you**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Social care worker |
|  | Service provider |
|  | Health service organisation |
|  | Union Member |
|  | Education sector |
|  | Student |
|  | Public interest group |
|  | Regulatory body |
|  | Representative body |
|  | Member of the public |
|  | Retired |
|  | Other |

**1.6** If you are a practising social care worker, how many years’ experience do you have working in the profession?

* 1. In which country/countries did you gain this experience?

**1.8** If more than one country, please specify the duration of experience gained in each country?

**1.9** Please describe your current work setting (Mental Health Services, Addiction Services, Homeless Services, etc.)

**2. SURVEY**

**Please complete the following questions and provide a brief summary to support your response as appropriate in the free text box.**

**2.1 – Do you agree that the current registration requirements (set out on page 5 of the Public Consultation Document) for social care workers during the transition period are adequate to protect the public?**

Please select one below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly disagree |

*Please provide a brief summary to support your response*

**2.2 Do you agree that the proposed registration requirements (set out on page 5 of the Public Consultation Document) for social care workers during the transition period are necessary to protect the public?**

*Is it necessary that the 2 years professional experience be gained in the State?*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly disagree |

*Please provide a brief summary to support your response*

*Is it necessary that the employer’s reference be replaced with a competence test?*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly disagree |

*Please provide a brief summary to support your response*

**2.3 What do you see as the risks/benefits of requiring professional experience to be gained in the State?**

*Risks*

*Benefits*

**2.4 What do you see as the risks/benefits of requiring applicants to pass an assessment of professional competence?**

*Risks*

*Benefits*

**2.5 Do you agree that the risk to the public is the same for social care workers as it is for the other professions which CORU regulates?**

***Context:*** *CORU currently regulates the following professions: Dietitians, Occupational Therapists, Medical Scientists, Social Workers, Speech and Language Therapists, Optometrists, Dispensing Opticians, Physiotherapists, Radiographers and Radiation Therapists, and Podiatrists. Six professions are awaiting regulation, including social care work.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly disagree |

*Please provide a brief summary to support your response*

**2.6 Do you think that the measures proposed are the least restrictive measures available to ensure protection of the public whilst at the same time balancing the rights of existing practitioners to practise their profession?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree |
|  | Agree |
|  | Neither agree nor disagree |
|  | Disagree |
|  | Strongly disagree |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

*Please provide a brief summary to support your response*

**2.7 Do you think that there are other measures that would give an appropriate level of public protection? If so, please indicate what they are in the box below.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes |
|  | No |
|  | No opinion |

*Please provide a brief summary to support your response*

**Thank you for completing this survey**

**Thank you for completing this survey.**

If you want to make any other comments on the proportionality of the proposed changes please use the box below.