



# **HSCPA**

*Health and Social Care Professional Alliance*

Radiology Dept  
Connolly Hospital  
Dublin 15

Mr Simon Harris  
Minister for Health  
Dept of Health  
Block 1  
Miesian Plaza  
50-58 Lower Baggot Street  
Dublin  
D02 XW14

**February 27th, 2020**

Dear Minister Harris,

**RE: ADVERTISEMENT OF CHIEF NURSING OFFICER (CNO) POST**

I refer to previous correspondence with the Secretary General and I am writing with regard to the recent advertisement of this post by the Department of Health.

As you are aware the Health and Social Care Professionals Alliance has been campaigning since 2014 for the establishment of an independent Health and Social Care Advisory Unit to provide the Minister and Department with the expert advice and support that it requires at this time of tremendous structural change in

the Irish Public Health Services encompassing Slainte Care. Therefore, we note with alarm the inclusion of responsibility within the role of the CNO, for a Health and Social Care Advisor post located under the governance of the Chief Nursing office. This development has arisen without any consultation with, or agreement from HSCP professions.

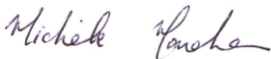
This proposed expansion of the role of CNO post means that this will not be an independent position but one whereby the HSCP Advisor will be accountable to a member of another profession, thus implying a lack of equity between health professional groups.

The role states that *“the core function of the Chief Nursing Officer is to maximise the development and contribution of nursing and midwifery within the health delivery system”* which we believe is incompatible with the requirement that the CNO will also have responsibility for *“developing and integrating the (HSCP Advisor) function within the Department”*.

Furthermore, the lack of autonomy for HSCPS is exacerbated by the requirement that the post holder *“must be registered or entitled to registration in a division of the Register of Nurses and Midwifery Board of Ireland”*, it is completely unacceptable that a senior position overseeing the development and regulation of HSCPS should be structured in such a way as to preclude HSCPs from applying.

The HSCPA demands that this recruitment campaign is immediately suspended pending a review and requests an urgent meeting with you and your officials to discuss our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

  
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Michele Monahan

**Chairperson, Health and Social Care Professionals Alliance (HSCPA)**

**Cc:** Mr Jim Breslin, Secretary General Department of Health

**Cc:** Mr Paul Reid, CEO, Health Service Executive

**Cc:** Ms Anne Marie Hoey, National Director of Human Resources, Health Services Executive

Mark Smyth President, PSI



Mary Mc Grath Chairperson AOTI



Vickie Kirkpatrick, Chair IASLT



David Durney Chair SCI



Jennifer Feighan CEO INDI



*Aine McGuirk*

, Aine McGuirk, Chair IASW



PP *Michelle Wilson* Pauline Wilson SCPI



*Gay Peart-Murphy*

, Gay Peart-Murphy, President ISCP



*Dean Harper*

, Dean Harper, President IIRRT



*Jaina Byrne*

, Jaina Byrne Chair IAO



*Lisa Molloy*

Lisa Molloy, President IACP

