



IASW

Irish Association of Social Workers
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibríthe Sóisialta

Mr. Stephen Donnelly TD,
Minister for Health,
Department of Health,
Miesian Plaza,
50-58 Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin 2.

14 June 2021

Dear Minister Donnelly,

RE: Reported plans for changes in future delivery of adult safeguarding services.

I have recently taken on the role of Chair of the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW). I write to you now to raise concerns expressed by IASW members about discussions which are reported to have taken place between representatives of HIQA and the HSE in relation to the future delivery of adult safeguarding services.

If what IASW is being told is accurate, you will appreciate that social workers, acknowledged in the Workplace Relations Commission and by the HSE in writing, as the *lead profession in adult safeguarding*, were disappointed to learn of these proposed developments through secondary sources, as well as their potential implications.

The IASW now request the following:

- Clarification regarding the current status in relation to any planned or proposed changes in the delivery of adult safeguarding services.
- Clarification around the nature and purpose of any past or planned discussions and any involvement by the Department of Health in this process.
- Immediate consultation and clear communication about this process.
- Acknowledgement from HIQA that social work is the lead profession in adult safeguarding, including within the nursing home sector.
- Full IASW representation at discussions between HIQA & the HSE. Service users must also be represented.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Vivian Geiran
Chair, Irish Association of Social Workers

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