



IASW

Irish Association of Social Workers
Cumann na hÉireann um Oibríthe Sóisialta

Ms. Yvonne O' Neill,
National Director of Community Operations,
Dr. Steevens Hospital,
Dublin 8,
DO8 W2A8
Email: Communityoperations@hse.ie

14 June 2021

RE: Reported HIQA/HSE discussions re future delivery of adult safeguarding services.

Dear Yvonne,

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

If these reports are accurate, it is very disappointing to learn that HSE staff, outside social work, in various CHOs are reported to have been briefed on these discussions and their implications, yet social workers, acknowledged by both the Workplace Relations Commission and by the HSE, as the *lead profession in adult safeguarding*, only learned of these reported developments through secondary sources.

The IASW request the following:

- Clarification regarding any planned changes in Adult Safeguarding service delivery structures and responsibilities.
- Clarification on the nature and purpose of any past or planned discussions.
- Immediate consultation, clear and ongoing communication with all stakeholders about this process.
- Renewed acknowledgement in writing from the HSE that social work is indeed the lead profession in adult safeguarding, including within the nursing home sector.
- Representation of social work at any discussions between HIQA & the HSE. Service users should also be represented at such discussions.
- Respectful communication and full engagement with social work, as lead professionals in adult safeguarding.

I look forward to your response, as a matter of urgency.

Kind Regards,

Vivian Geiran

Chair, Irish Association of Social Workers

C.C. J.P. Nolan, Head of Quality & Service User Safety, National Mental Health Division, jpnolan@hse.ie

C.C. Tim Hanley, General Manager, HSE Safeguarding Office, Southeast Wing, Registered Office: 114-116 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, Ireland
Room 7, 1st Floor, St Josephs, Mulgrave Street, Limerick. Timg.hanley@hse.ie

Tel: +353-(0)1-6774838

Email: office@iasw.ie

Website: www.iasw.ie