



Dear Candidate,

I'm writing to urge you to prioritise mental health in the upcoming General Election and the next Programme for Government.

As your voter, I know that mental health matters. 1 in 2 of us will experience mental health difficulties in our lifetimes either directly or indirectly.

Mental Health Reform has acknowledged the additional funding provided for mental health services in Budget 2025. However, more resources are needed as demand increases for both youth and adult mental health services.

Many people with mental health difficulties, particularly children and families, are unable to access appropriate or timely intervention. Low levels of investment are leading to ongoing delays in the development of new services, geographical disparities in the availability of treatment, and unacceptable waiting lists.

I fully support Mental Health Reform, the national coalition of organisations working in mental health in Ireland. Their manifesto sets out a clear vision to ensure people can access high-quality mental health supports and services in their communities.

I am asking you to commit to essential improvements in our mental health services including:

- Reform the Mental Health Act, 2001 and make the new law operational as soon as possible
- Increase investment in mental health to 10% of the total health budget by 2030
- Create a Super Junior Ministry for Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Instate a HSE National Lead for Mental Health and Regional Mental Health Leads
- Resource the implementation plan of our national mental health policy, Sharing the Vision

I urge you to do everything you can to resource and reform our mental health services. I am a reason for investing in mental health. We all know someone who is a reason for investing in mental health.

Mental Health Reform isn't asking you to sign a pledge to prioritise mental health. Instead, we are all putting our names to this open letter asking all candidates to give us a reason to vote for them.

In the upcoming General Election, I will be looking at all candidates and parties for their proposals on mental health when I decide my vote. As my political representative, I am asking you to seize this opportunity to help build a better future for people with mental health difficulties, their family members, friends and carers.

Yours sincerely,

Your Constituent