

## [Script for phone calls to TDs]

It is best to ring the TDs' offices in Leinster House. See contact details below. It is simply a matter of ringing the number and asking for your relevant elected official. If you prefer to contact your TD at the local advice clinic you can do that too.

### **Leinster House Address**

You can send letters to all TDs to Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Dublin 2.

### **Leinster House Main Switch Board**

Dáil Éireann LoCall: 1890 337 889

(outside of Dublin only)

from within Dublin: (01) 618-3000

**Oireachtas Website:** [www.irlgov.ie](http://www.irlgov.ie)

"Hello, my name is *insert your name*, may I speak with Deputy *insert elected official's name*. (Whether you are speaking to a secretary or the elected official, the following script will work)

I am from your constituency and I am ringing to raise my concerns about mental health in Ireland.

One in four people will experience a mental health problem at some point in their lives. Yet, mental health promotion and prevention in Ireland are given little attention. Mental health services are inadequate, uneven in their availability throughout the country, and under-resourced in staff and therapies. Mental health services and supports for children and other vulnerable groups are particularly poor.

The neglect of mental health to date is something that gravely concerns me. It is a human rights issue.

In January 2006, the Irish Government committed itself to a new national policy framework for mental health, *A Vision for Change*. It sets out a broad agenda for promoting mental health, preventing mental health problems, providing adequate mental health services, and addressing the practical day-to-day difficulties and discrimination experienced by people with mental health problems.

I would be grateful for an answer to the following question:

How does Government plan to ensure that this policy will be fully implemented, and that action will be taken on its recommendations by all Government Departments whose role it mentions?

I am calling on you to discuss this issue with your party colleagues and raise it with the Minister for Health and Children.

### **[you can talk about specific concerns in your own community if possible]**

I would like you to raise this issue with your party colleagues and the government.

I would like to hear your views on this issue and would appreciate it if you could put it in writing.

Thank you for your time."