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# ACTION 26

## Mental health: Let's make it happen

**WHAT?** → Three years on from the publication of *A Vision for Change*, with increasing demand on mental health services and cuts across public services, the Government has failed to deliver on its mental health strategy.

→ **Ask the TDs and ministers:** Drawing on the findings of the Irish Mental Health Coalition's report *Late for a Very Important Date*, criticising the lack of progress on *A Vision for Change*, the following must be answered:

1. Why has no Director of Mental Health been appointed despite the recommendations of the Minister and the Independent Monitoring Group?
2. When will the practice of admitting children to adult wards end?
3. When will the HSE publish an implementation plan for *A Vision for Change* that has been approved by the Minister with detailed year on year targets, timeframes and human and financial resource commitments?
4. How many fully staffed Community Mental Health Teams, are presently in place around the country?
5. Will the Government commit to revising and ring-fencing mental health funding in light of increasing demands on the services?

## WHO?

→ **Call or write to all TDs in your constituency** (script for phone calls and letters enclosed). It is best to ring your T.D.'s constituency office on a Friday or contact them in Leinster House Tuesday to Thursday. If possible arrange a clinic visit with your TD and meet him or her in person to discuss the matter.

## → As well as your local TD please send the letter to:

Ms Mary Harney, T.D.  
Minister for Health and Children  
Department of Health and Children  
Hawkins House  
Hawkins Street  
Dublin 2

Mr John Moloney T.D.  
Minister of State Equality, Disability  
and Mental Health  
Department of Health and Children  
Hawkins House  
Hawkins Street  
Dublin 2

Ms Bairbre Nic Aongusa  
Director  
Office for Disability and Mental Health  
Department of Health and Children  
Hawkins House  
Dublin 2

**WHEN?** → Send letters to your local TD/Ministers on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**  
Make phone calls on **Friday 30th January**

**Strength in numbers:** Have you joined Amnesty? We rely on membership to make ourselves heard. The more members we have, the stronger we become. You can join today by texting the word JOIN to 51444. You can also join on-line at <http://www.amnesty.ie/join> or simply call the office and we will process your membership over the phone on 01 836 8356.