

[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

"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 writing to express my concern about mental health in Ireland.

In January 2006, the Irish Government committed itself to a new national policy framework for mental health, *A Vision for Change*. This mental health policy sets out a vision for the future proposed by an Expert Group on Mental Health Policy. But it must be followed now by speedy implementation by Government.

Children can wait years to access mental health services. Children's mental health services outlined in *A Vision for Change* should be developed as a matter of urgency. Approximately 300 children per year are placed in adult inpatient facilities. The highest priority should be given to ending the practice of placing children in inpatient facilities with adults in violation of children's rights, through the provision of sufficient inpatient facilities appropriate to the needs of children.

[Insert specific concerns in your own community, or use your experience as an example of your concern, related to the monthly question(s)]

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

January 24th marks the one-year anniversary of A Vision for Change. By its second anniversary, how far will waiting times be reduced and how many children's inpatient facilities will be available?

I am calling on you to discuss this issue with your party colleagues and raise it with Mary Harney TD, the Minister for Health and Children, and with Brian Lenihan TD, the Minister of State with special responsibility for children.

I look forward to hearing from you.