



## **Royal College of Psychiatrists NI (RCPsych NI) Response to: Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery Consultation on Disability Action Plan 2024-2029**

### **1.0 Introduction about RCPsych NI:**

The Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) is the statutory body responsible for the supervision of the training and accreditation of Psychiatrists in the UK and for providing guidelines and advice regarding the treatment, care, and prevention of mental and behavioural disorders. Among its principal aims are to improve the outcomes for those with mental illness and to improve the mental health of individuals, families and communities.

The College has approximately 440 members in Northern Ireland (including Doctors in training) who provide the backbone of the local Psychiatric service, offering inpatient, day patient and outpatient treatment, as well as specialist care and consultation across a large range of settings.

This response is submitted on behalf of the Devolved Council of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in Northern Ireland.

### **2.0 General Comments:**

**We welcome the opportunity to comment on this Consultation. However, we must make clear as a professional Medical Royal College that we are not offering any comments whatsoever on the nature of the proposed legislation either in favour or against - and our Response should not be interpreted in any other way. We are offering comments solely on and limited to mental health aspects.**

**The key commitments to meeting Disability duties as outlined in Section 2.4 cover only physical health issues. There is virtually no acknowledgement of the Commission's responsibilities for people with a mental health disability. This is concerning. This almost negates our role in this Consultation apart from raising this important omission. There is also a lack recognition of people with a mental disability in the Section on Action Measures.**

**It is important that staff who have a mental health disability are provided with a support structure and access to good occupational health services, if needed. Many of the issues they will have to address as staff of the Commission in the role of Case Support Workers and Investigators at all levels will bring them into the knowledge of**

**distressing situations. They will also be assisting victims and their families throughout the whole process and some of whom will be very distressed.**

**Dated: 10 May 2024**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Wilson', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Dr Richard Wilson Chair RCPsych NI & Vice President RCPsych  
- on behalf of RCPsych NI**