



Royal College of Psychiatrists NI (RCPsych NI) Response to:

DoJ Consultation on Evidence of Domestic Abuse that should trigger an Automatic Prohibition on Cross-Examination in Person in Family Courts

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 Royal College of Psychiatrists in Northern Ireland Private and Independent Practice Special Interest Group (PIPSIG).

2.0 General Comments:

We support both the principles promoted of protection from cross examination in cases of domestic abuse and also the clarification in the guidance for health professionals regarding the application of section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (NI) 1967.

Dated: 21 April 2023

Dr Ed Noble

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