



**Royal College of Psychiatrists NI (RCPsych NI) Response to:
DoH Public Consultation on
Reforming the Northern Ireland Clinical Excellence Awards Scheme
(CEA)**

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:

The RCPsych NI welcomes the principle of rewarding staff and recognising excellence. This would be beneficial to the morale of the workforce, given ongoing stresses in the healthcare system. Within Northern Ireland, there are high numbers of unfilled posts - and we support any proposal that may assist in recruitment and retention. Given that CEAs are available within other regions of the UK, it would be of benefit to offer similar incentives within HSCNI – however, the issue of CEAs is more of a terms and conditions matter and therefore we would defer to the BMA on same.

Dated: 18 December 2023

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

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