November 2021

Dr Bobby Smyth

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## National Oversight Committee of

## “Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery -

## a health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017 – 2025”

Dear Bobby,

You may be aware that I recently published a midterm review of “*Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery* – a health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025”.  The review included an examination of the institutional arrangements supporting the implementation of *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery,* and identified 6 strategic priorities for the remaining years of the strategy to strengthen the health-led approach to drug use, as agreed in the Programme for Government.

As Minister with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy, I am establishing new oversight structures to support the implementation of the strategic priorities for 2021-2025. This involves revising the membership of the National Oversight Committee (NOC), which provide leadership and direction, and establishing 6 Strategic Implementation Groups (SIGs) to support the implementation of the strategic priorities.

The NOC, which meets quarterly, will continue to comprise representatives at Assistant Secretary or equivalent level from the various statutory partners involved in the implementation of the strategy. Civil Society and the Drug and Alcohol Task Forces will also be represented. In addition, the strategy provides for me to appoint clinical and academic expertise to the Committee.

I would like to invite you to accept the role of clinical expert onto the Committee for the remainder of the term of the NOC, to 2025, and to contribute your clinical expertise to the implementation of the strategy. The terms of reference for the committee are attached. A reply by 26th November 2021 would be appreciated to facilitate the next meeting of a refreshed National Oversight Committee, on 3rd December 2021.

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Frank Feighan, T.D.

Minister of State for Public Health, Well Being and National Drugs Strategy

**Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery -**

**A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017 - 2025**

**National Oversight Committee - Terms of Reference**

* To give leadership, direction, prioritisation and mobilisation of resources to support the implementation of the strategy;
* To measure performance in order to strengthen the delivery of drugs initiatives and to improve the impact on the drug problem;
* To monitor the drugs situation and oversee the implementation of a prioritised programme of research to address gaps in knowledge;
* To ensure that the lessons drawn from evidence and good practice inform the development of policy and initiatives to address the drug problem;
* To convene Sub-committees, as required, to support implementation of the strategy.