

Jackson, Stephen

From: Jackson, Stephen
Sent: 04 December 2001 11:58
To: McCusker, Bernadette
Cc: Park, John; McMahon, Maire; McMaster, Ian; Rice, Francis
Subject: FW: Psychotherapy / counselling query

Bernie,

I attach the 'line to take' for Ms Madden.



Irish News Anne
Madden December 2001 2001

Stephen
24237

From: McMin, Colin
Sent: 04 December 2001 09:10
To: Jackson, Stephen; Long, Ronnie
Subject: FW: Psychotherapy / counselling query

From: McCusker, Bernadette
Sent: 03 December 2001 17:17
To: McMin, Colin
Cc: Hamilton, Jim; Gaughran, Aine; Edgar, Leona; Gardner, Jeremy
Subject: Psychotherapy / counselling query

Colin

I have had a query this evening from Anne Madden of the Irish News re. psychotherapy and counselling services.

Ms Madden says she has had a note from the Psychotherapy and Counselling Network here saying that they have achieved accreditation from the British Association of Psychotherapy and Counselling (BACP).

The P&C Network say that they are the only body here to have this accreditation, and say that the standard of counselling services here does not reach GB standards - ie. anyone can get a qualification and set up in business with little or no accountability or scrutiny.

Ms Madden would like to know what the Department's view of psychotherapy and counselling services here is, and whether a review currently being carried out in Britain will apply here.

Is there a line/response I can give to Ms Madden?

I would need this information on Tuesday 4 December please.

Many thanks

Bernie McCusker
Information Office

PRESS ENQUIRY FROM ANNE MADDEN – IRISH NEWS
PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELLING

1. The Department commissioned a Review of Counselling in response to a recommendation in the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) report *Living with the Trauma of the Troubles* (1998). This report had noted widespread confusion about the nature of counselling for individuals affected by the Troubles. There were concerns regarding the level of expertise attained by some practitioners and the arrangements for their supervision. Disquiet was compounded by the lack of any requirements for practitioners to be trained to a particular standard and the lack of universally accepted accreditation or registration processes. These concerns were not unique to trauma counselling; consequently the focus of the Review was widened to include all types of counselling.
2. The aim of the Review was to examine the standards of counselling practice here and the objectives included the identification of key issues; examination of the scale and scope of counselling services available; arrangements for training and supervision of counsellors; and the effectiveness of current accreditation arrangements. Given the considerable overlap between counselling and psychotherapy and some parallel issues with befriending, the Review gave some consideration to all three activities.
3. A Departmental project team led the Review, assisted by an external reference group representing a wide range of views and knowledge about counselling. The Review findings were drawn from the relevant literature as well as three commissioned surveys of counsellors and their employers, trainers and individuals who have received counselling.
4. The Review is currently at its final draft and arrangements are being considered for its publication, after clearance by Minister.

Line to Take

The Department commissioned (1999) a Review of Counselling, in response to a recommendation in the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) report *Living with the Trauma of the Troubles* (1998), which noted widespread confusion about the nature of counselling for individuals affected by the Troubles. There were concerns regarding the level of expertise attained by some practitioners and the arrangements for their supervision. Disquiet was compounded by the lack of any requirements for practitioners to be trained to a particular standard and the lack of universally accepted accreditation or registration processes. These concerns were not unique to trauma counselling; consequently the focus of the Review was widened to include all types of counselling and psychotherapy.

This Review is currently at final draft and arrangements are being made for its publication early new year.

From: Jackson, Stephen
Sent: 04 December 2001 11:55
To: McCusker, Bernadette
Cc: Park, John; McMahon, Maite; McManus, Ian; Rice, Francis
Subject: FW: Psychotherapy / counselling query

Dear Sir,

I attach the 'line to take' for Ms Madden.


Line to take.doc
Microsoft Word 97-2003

Stephen
24/25

From: Madden, Anne
Sent: 04 December 2001 08:10
To: Jackson, Stephen; Long, Patricia
Subject: FW: Psychotherapy / counselling query

From: McCusker, Bernadette
Sent: 04 December 2001 12:13
To: Madden, Anne
Cc: Hamilton, Jan; Daughan, Alan; Rice, Francis; Long, Patricia
Subject: Psychotherapy / counselling query

Dear Sir,

I have had a query this morning from Anne Madden of the Irish News re: psychotherapy and counselling services.

Ms Madden says she has had a note from the Psychotherapy and Counselling Network, I have replied that they have achieved accreditation from the British Association of Psychotherapy and Counselling (BAPC).

The BAPC network say that they are the only body here to have this accreditation, and say that the standards of counselling services here does not reach GB standards - ie. anyone can get a qualification and set up in business with little or no accountability or scrutiny.

Is the Govt aware of what the Department's view of psychotherapy and counselling services here is - is a review currently being carried out in Britain which will apply here.

What is the response I can give to Ms Madden?

What is the information on Tuesday 4 December please

Thank you

Stephen
24/25