

**From the Chief Medical Officer**  
Prof Sir Michael McBride



**BY EMAIL** - [sara@pprproject.org](mailto:sara@pprproject.org)

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Participation and the Practice of Rights

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref:  
Date: 1 March 2023

Dear Sara

At the Samaritans Mental Health event at Parliament Buildings on Wednesday I undertook to further explore your query regarding the ceasing of data collection in relation to psychological therapy services since the dissolution of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB). As you will be aware the former HSCB now sits within the Department, and is named Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG).

I have been advised by SPPG that psychological therapies data reporting is ongoing and the Department continues to receive monthly data from all Trusts in relation to psychological therapy services as well as monthly waiting time figures. If there is something specific you require, the Department will be happy to assist.

The other point you raised is very valid generally around the need to enhance data collection and I would reiterate my comments at the event in relation to the Mental Health Outcomes Framework. This Framework reflects the drive towards improving service user safety and outcomes through evidence based practice and care. The Framework will also inform and improve the treatment and care provided to service users and their families.

I trust this helps clarify the current position around mental health data collection.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McBride".

**PROF SIR MICHAEL McBRIDE**  
Chief Medical Officer