



An easy-to-read guide to the

# Public Consultation into the role of Voluntary Organisations

April 2018

## Section 1 - Introduction



The Minister for Health has asked an independent group to look at the roles of voluntary organisations.

Voluntary organisations are independent organisations that provide health and social care services to people.



These organisations provide care to people with physical and intellectual disabilities.

For example, this includes:

- Hospital care
- Residential care
- Community care



These voluntary organisations usually have a Board of directors.

These voluntary organisations are usually split into 2 types.

These are:

- Section 38 organisations and
- Section 39 organisations

### Section 38 organisations

- Work on behalf of the HSE
- Receive all their funding from the HSE

### Section 39 organisations

- Work more independently than Section 38 organisations
- They receive some funding from the HSE





An independent group has been set up to look at how voluntary organisations provide health and personal social services.



This group is looking for people's views on how voluntary organisations are working.



You can take part in this consultation by filling out a questionnaire.



This document is a guide and will help you understand the questionnaire.

The questionnaire is split up into 10 sections.

You can add your own comments at the end of each section of the questionnaire if you want.

It will take about 1 hour to finish the questionnaire.

You do not have to answer all the questions if you do not want to.



If you have any questions you can:

**Email:**

[VoluntaryOrganisationsConsultaton@health.gov  
.ie](mailto:VoluntaryOrganisationsConsultaton@health.gov.ie)

**Call:**

01 635 4418



The closing date is 5.00pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2018

## Section 2 – Your details

In this section you need to fill in

- Your name
- Your age
- If you are a service user or if you work in healthcare



## Section 3 – Strengths and weaknesses

Voluntary organisations have provided health and social care services for many years.

Sometimes these organisations have provided this care at times when the State has not been able to.

These organisations may grow and they may need more state funding to provide this care.

Voluntary organisations sometimes have volunteers working for them, and not just paid staff members.



This section looks at the strengths and weaknesses of voluntary organisations.

This section wants to know what you think are the positive parts of voluntary organisations.



This section also wants to know if you think there are any negative parts to voluntary organisations.

## Section 4 – Relationship between the State and voluntary organisations

This section looks at the relationship between the State and voluntary organisations.



The State would include:

- The HSE
- The Department of Health



There are a few organisations that are responsible for making sure voluntary organisations are doing their jobs right.



These organisations could be:

- HIQA
- The Charities Regulator



These organisations might inspect the services or check the services' finances to make sure everything is working as it should.

This section wants to know if you think voluntary organisations should be inspected and monitored



## Section 5 – Funding

This section is looking at the way money is given to voluntary organisations.

In 2017, the HSE gave around 3.6 billion euro to voluntary organisations.

Capital funding is also given to voluntary organisations.

- Capital funding is usually the money used on buildings and equipment.

There is a question asking if voluntary organisations should tell the public what it is going to do with:

- The equipment and
- The buildings it bought with HSE money if they are going to be sold



## Section 6 – Governance

Governance means the way in which organisations are run.

Voluntary organisations are usually run by a Board of directors who are unpaid.

The job of the Board is to:

- Make sure the organisation is run properly
- Check the finances of the organisation
- Make sure the organisation is going in the right direction



This section is asking you what you think the main issues facing these Boards are



## Section 7 - Legal Classification

This section is looking at the way voluntary organisations are legally classified under the Health Act, 2004.

- Legally classified means the different types of organisations under the law.

Such as Section 38 or Section 39 organisations.



### Section 38 organisations

- Work on behalf of the HSE
- Receive all their funding from the HSE



### Section 39 organisations

- Work more independently than Section 38 organisations
- They receive some funding from the HSE



If you are a service user, this section wants to know what you think of Section 38 and Section 39 organisations.

This section asks what you think are the positive parts and the negative parts involved in being a Section 38 organisation.



This section asks what you think are the positive parts and the negative parts involved in being a Section 39 organisation.



## Section 8 - Smaller Section 39 organisations

There are over 2,000 Section 39 voluntary organisations.

They provide:

- Physical disability services
- Intellectual disability services
- Mental health services
- Older people care services

Some of these organisations get a lot of funding, and some get smaller amounts of funding.



This section is asking you if you think Section 39 organisations should share some of their services with other small Section 39 organisations.

These shared services could be:

- Legal matters
- Finance or money matters
- Staffing matters

This section also asks how you think this could be done and what might stop it from happening.



This section also wants to know if you think these Section 39 organisations should be joined together.





## Section 9 – Ethos

An organisation's **ethos** means an organisation's values or mission statement.

It usually involves describing what the organisation does and how it does it.

Examples of this could be

- Dignity
- Compassion
- Care
- Support



Some organisations have an ethos that comes from faith or religion.

The first question asks if you have experience of an organisation that has a faith-based ethos.

The next question asks that if you do have this experience, were faith-based or religious values part of the services they offered.



The next question asks you that if an organisation receives any money from the State, should the organisation clearly say that its services are open to all faiths or religions.



The last question wants to know if there is anything else you want to say about this.



## Section 10 - Any other issues

This section has one question asking if you would like to say anything else about voluntary organisations

This Easy to Read Document was developed by Inclusion Ireland for the Independent Review Group established to examine the role of voluntary organisations in publicly funded health and personal social services.

The document was proof-read by men and women with a disability.



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