

**The Mental Health (Criminal Law) Review Board
seeks expressions of interest from suitably qualified solicitors for inclusion on the
Mental Health (Criminal Law) Legal representatives panel**

The Mental Health (Criminal Law) Review Board is an independent statutory body, which was established under Section 11 of the Criminal Law (Insanity) Act 2006 on 27 September 2006.

The Mental Health (Criminal Law) Review Board is responsible for reviewing the detention of patients in designated centres who have been referred by a court, having been found either unfit to stand trial or not guilty of an offence by reason of insanity. The Review Board also reviews the detention of prisoners who have been transferred to a designated centre suffering from a mental disorder. The Review Board is independent in the exercise of its function. Reviews take place in the Central Mental Hospital, Portrane, every month.

The Mental Health (Criminal Law) Review Board seeks expressions of interest from suitably qualified solicitors for inclusion on the Mental Health (Criminal Law) Legal representatives' panel. Persons applying for inclusion on the panel must:

1. Hold a current practising certificate from the Law Society of Ireland
2. Have professional indemnity insurance to cover an individual claim of up to €1.5m
3. Be a practising solicitor who has had not less than 3 years' experience as a practising solicitor ending immediately before application

At the time of application and at all times through his/her tenure, the legal representative must be practising. Any law firm that wishes to participate in the Scheme must provide the above details for each legal representative who proposes to provide legal services on behalf of the firm under the Scheme.

Legal representatives will be expected to act on behalf of their client(s) in a manner in keeping with the code of practice 'The Guide to Professional Conduct', and any other directions as issued by the Law Society of Ireland.

Legal Representatives must comply with the tax clearance procedures specified in the Department of Finance Circular 43/2006 entitled 'Tax Clearance Procedures – Public Sector contracts' or any such circular amending or replacing that circular.

Legal Representatives/law firms on the Panel must have access to email facilities and must have IT software that is compatible with Microsoft Office software to ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Board.

Application form and details on Terms and Conditions can be found at <https://www.mhclrb.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Terms-Conditions-of-MHCLRB.pdf>. When completing the application, applicants should outline, in detail, any relevant experience.

Inclusion on this panel does not guarantee that any individual will be called upon to represent a patient at a Review Hearing. Where an applicant has not been placed on the panel, their details shall be retained for a period of 18 months. In the event a vacancy arises during this timeframe, they may be contacted with a view to being included on the panel.

Expressions of interest should be emailed to MHRBlegalpanelapplications@justice.ie before close of business on **24 May 2024**. Queries in this regard may also be forwarded to that email address in advance of the closing date.

Please note that all applications received will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014.