Memorandum of Understanding
between
Health Information and Quality Authority
and
Health and Safety Authority

Date: 11th December 2015

PARTIES:
(1) HEALTH INFORMATION AND QUALITY AUTHORITY established under the Health Act 2007 as amended and having its head office at Unit 1301 City Gate, Mahon, Cork, Ireland ("HIQA"); and

(2) HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY established under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 as amended having its head office at The Metropolitan Building, James Joyce Street, Dublin 1, Ireland ("HSA")

INTRODUCTION:
(A) This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to assist and support both the HSA and HIQA in performing their individual functions. In particular, it takes note of areas of potential overlap and sectors where both agencies have a remit.

BACKGROUND:
A. Health Information and Quality Authority

The Health Information and Quality Authority is the independent authority established to drive continuous improvement in Ireland's health and social care services. HIQA's mandate extends across the quality and safety of the public, private and voluntary sectors.

B. The Health and Safety Authority

The Health and Safety Authority is the national agency in Ireland responsible for securing health and safety at work. It was established under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989 which was replaced by the Safety Health and Welfare at Work 2005. The Health and Safety Authority has overall responsibility for the administration and enforcement of health and safety at work in Ireland.

UNDERTAKINGS:

It is agreed and acknowledged by HIQA and the HSA that both Parties implement this Memorandum in a spirit of co-operation. Both Parties will consult on the effective operation and any proposed changes to the Memorandum.

1. The effective operation of the MOU will be on the basis of an agreed operational protocol.

2. The aims of this Memorandum are:

a) To promote a safe-work environment for staff in health and social care services and to promote high-quality and safe services for users of the health and social care system.

b) To facilitate the efficient implementation of safety, health and welfare legislation and the Health Act 2007 for people receiving health and social services.

c) To ensure that regulation is applied in a sensible and proportionate manner for the service provider.

d) To avoid duplication of effort by both Parties.

e) To share knowledge, expertise and experience.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

3. A review meeting will be held no less than once annually where the activities in the areas of shared or overlapping responsibility and cooperative measures will be reviewed. In addition, the content of the Memorandum will be reviewed to ensure that it remains relevant.

This Memorandum has been entered into on the date stated at the beginning of this Memorandum.

SIGNED by PHELIM QUINN
Chief Executive Officer for and on behalf of Health Information and Quality Authority

SIGNED by MARTIN O'MALLORAN
Chief Executive Officer for and on behalf of the Health and Safety Authority