



Statement of Outcomes of Public Consultation on Bye-Laws for Registration of Social Workers

People were invited to participate in the consultation process in a number of ways:

- They could ring CORU to request a copy of the bye-laws and a consultation form
- They could visit CORU's office to view the bye-laws and give their feedback in person.
- They could visit www.CORU.ie and choose to complete an online survey, to print a copy of the questionnaire and post it, or to complete a pdf version and email it to CORU.

5. Response Rate

In total 60 valid responses were received (57 online, 2 by post and 1 by email). The Data Protection Commissioner gave feedback which they requested be considered outside of the consultation process, and two responses were received after the closing date of the consultation process. These two cannot be considered under Section 32 (2) of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 which states that the registration board may consider "any comments received before the date specified in the invitation."

78% of respondents contributed in a personal capacity, and 22% as part of an organisation. The majority (68%) of respondents heard about the consultation process by email, 16% saw it on CORU's website, 9% saw it on another website and 5% heard about it an 'other' way.

Visits to CORU's website increased by 270% in the week the consultation process was launched. Many people were referred to our website by other signposting organisations such as Citizens Information, the Department of Health and Children, the National Social Work Qualifications Board, the Irish Association of Social Workers or Activelink.

6. Responses Received:

Overall, the bye-laws were welcomed by respondents and comments received were broadly positive. Therefore, no changes of major significance were made to the final bye-laws.

However, many respondents used the consultation process to raise queries or seek clarification on specific issues relating to the regulation of social workers which were outside the remit of the consultation process. The following is a list of the issues raised on each bye-law

Application for Registration of Social Workers Bye-Law

- How references to the health and character of applicants would be treated
- How social workers who have not practised for some time would be dealt with
- Delays caused by Garda Vetting



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of the making of the three statutory instruments was published in Iris Oifigiúil on 8 April 2011.

Finally, the Social Workers Registration Board made the bye-law and it became effective on 29 March 2011.