

21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020

Dear Commissioners,

As there are no pathological tests to determine any mental health condition, at any age, I vehemently disagree that screening 0-3 year olds could identify any possible condition on a subjective basis.

With the very alarming rise in the prescription and drugging rates of young children over the past years, the logical assumption, and I expect, the outcome of this proposal will result in the harmful drugging of those unfortunate babies who may not fit into some box that is “deemed” normal. The Psychiatric societies have no cures for any mental illness and totally rely on drugs as their only source of management.

In my experience as a mother, aunt and trusted carer of many babies and children over the years, each one is unique and they respond to the environments that they are exposed to. If a parent does not know how to parent, place responsible boundaries for their child to learn and grow safely or cannot make/take appropriate action to be fully responsible for the child, then it is the parents who need help, not the child.

It seems obvious to those who care to take an honest look, that children who are labelled with some mental illness and are subsequently drugged, grow up with an excuse for bad behaviour, become victims and have little chance of ever being able to recover to lead a happy fulfilling life. The drugs have severe side effects and often lead to much worse conditions. Please don't allow this to happen to our future generations. No good will come from this and much will be lost.