



**Name Redacted**

Module Lead Solicitor

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

3/1/23

Dear **Name Redacted**

**Reference for Request - M2/R9R/MINDWISE**

In response to your recent questionnaire, 24/11/22, I can advise the following:-

1. **A brief overview of the history, legal status and aims of the organisation or body. Please explain whether the work of the organisation or body is UK wide, or is instead confined to Northern Ireland only?**

The National Schizophrenia Fellowship was established in Northern Ireland and across the UK in 1972, the operating name was subsequently changed to Rethink in 2002. In April 2009, the Northern Ireland region of Rethink achieved independence from the national organisation and established itself as an independent charity named MindWise New Vision, operating under MindWise, [www.mindwisenv.org](http://www.mindwisenv.org)

MindWise is a membership led organisation which aims to support and empower people affected by mental health issues to live their best lives. MindWise is Registered in Northern Ireland Number NI071976. Registered Office Pinewood House, 46 Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5NW. MindWise is a company limited by guarantee and recognised by HM Revenue and Customs as a charity for tax purposes.

2. **A brief description of the group(s) which the organisation or body supports or represents?**

The vulnerable people MindWise work with and for are affected by some of the biggest societal challenges, to include: • Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) • Educational attainment/resiliency worries • Poverty, money and debt problems • Impact of living with a severe mental illness (Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Personality Disorder (Complex PTSD) • Impact of caring for someone with mental health issues • Workforce absences/employee wellbeing • Housing and homelessness • Loneliness and isolation • Managing the systems (Healthcare; Youth and criminal justice; welfare) • Managing transitions. MindWise currently supports >16 000 people per annum in Northern Ireland, the number of people we support increases year on year.

**MindWise**

Pinewood House, 46 Newforge Lane Belfast, BT9 5NW

**Irrelevant & Sensitive** info@mindwisenv.org

[www.mindwisenv.org](http://www.mindwisenv.org)

**Supporting and empowering people affected by mental health issues to live their best lives.**

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Good Practice Award



MindWise New Vision is registered as a company limited by guarantee in Northern Ireland (No NI071976) and is a charity registered in Northern Ireland (No. NIC103469)

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- 3. A brief overview of the work of the organisation or body in supporting or representing the relevant group(s) between January 2020 and May 2022 as it relates to the response to Covid-19 of (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Government in Northern Ireland?**

MindWise provided a range of services during this time to include: • Talking Therapies (a range of psychological therapies) • Mums, dads, family and carer wellness services • Youth, criminal justice and forensic services to include delivery of the Northern Ireland Appropriate Adult Scheme. • Adult Mental Health services (Housing, Community, Carers and Family Support Services) • Information, Advice and Advocacy services to include Mental Health and Money Advice Service. • Your Resilience and Bloom in Schools • WorkWise (for training and bespoke support for employers).

- 4. A list of any articles or reports the organisation or body has published or contributed to, and/or evidence it has given (for example to UK Parliament or the Northern Ireland Executive) regarding the impact on the group(s) which the organisation or body supports or represents of the response to Covid-19 by (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Government in Northern Ireland. Please include links to those documents where possible?**

N/A

- 5. The view of the organisation or body as to whether the group(s) it supports or represents was adequately considered when decisions about the response to Covid-19 were made by (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Government in Northern Ireland. Please also explain the reasons for the view expressed by the organisation or body in this respect?**

The view of MindWise is that the groups we support were adequately considered, by (i) and (ii), when decisions about the response to COVID-19 were made. Further noting that MindWise contributed to COVID 19 consultations produced by overarching 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Bodies e.g. NICVA, ARC, IHCP, while our participation in the Public Health Agencies COVID Campaign also ensured the needs of the people we support were considered.

- 6. Whether the organisation or body raised any concerns about the consideration being given to the group(s) which it supports or represents with (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Government in Northern Ireland, when those governments were making decisions about their response to Covid-19. Please provide a list of any such correspondence or meetings with (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Government in Northern Ireland, including the dates on which the body or organisation wrote or such meetings were held, to whom the correspondence was addressed or with whom the meeting was held, and any response received from the UK Government or the Government in Northern Ireland addressing such concerns.**

N/A

- 7. A brief summary of the views of the organisation or body as to any lessons, if any, that can be learned from any consideration which was given to the group(s) that the organisation or body supports or represents by (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Government in Northern Ireland when they were making decisions about their response to Covid-19?**

MindWise are of the view that the UK Government (i) and the Government in NI (ii) focused, on primary/acute/statutory services as opposed to community based services across the health care system. The key recommendation is to invest in the sustainable development and transformation of the Health and Social Care system. Further noting that this transformation should place a focus on early intervention and prevention via creation of digital solutions and community based services.

Yours sincerely

**Personal Data**

Anne Doherty, MindWise CEO