

## Press Release

### **HSE in Galway sets up Counselling Helpline for flood victims**

**30<sup>th</sup> November, 2009:** The HSE in Galway has set up a Counselling Helpline to assist people who have been affected by the stress of the recent flooding in Co. Galway. The Counselling Helpline will commence operating from 12 noon today, and will operate from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. from Monday to Friday. The phone number is Freephone **1800 245 600**.

The Counselling Helpline will be staffed by psychology and social work professionals. It aims to assist callers in managing stressful emotions and anxieties that can often occur after challenging events. Counselling support for callers in managing stress, together with advice for families with children and vulnerable others, will be provided.

A separate HSE Information Line, telephone number **1800 283 036**, has been established to advise people on the practical services that are available to assist them following the flooding in the county.

Callers to this Helpline will be asked to provide their name, address, contact number, PPSN and details of the service they require. HSE staff will then provide information on the services available to assist them.

**Ends**