26 July 2012

**For Immediate release**

The IHCA is disappointed that health service management has withdrawn from talks with the Association about how to improve the health service. The HSE has prematurely broken off the discussions without first setting out how the State intends to reconfigure hospitals or the number of consultants that are needed to provide a proper service to patients.

Consultants hope that a successful conclusion can be reached as they want to treat patients to the highest standards without delays. Consultants have already demonstrated extensive flexibility saving €63 million last year on one new clinical programme alone. There are now 10% more patients being treated compared with two years ago despite cuts in the health services budgets.

**Ends**

**For further information**

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**Secretary General**

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