

PRESS RELEASE

14th June 2016

Sensitive matter ignored

Giving its feedback during an MCESD discussion earlier this week, on the proposed Jobs Plus Act, the Chamber insisted that it was both unfair and unacceptable on employers to be burdened with strict responsibilities and liabilities for people who choose not to disclose information with the authorities about a disability they may have.

The Chamber accepts the right of individuals not to disclose sensitive personal information to the pertinent authorities but in this eventuality, the employer can carry no liability or responsibility. In such cases, employers would have no idea what mental or physical impairments an employee might be carrying and therefore cannot and should not be expected to take the necessary precautions particularly at the level of Health and Safety.

The Chamber is disappointed to note that this serious matter was not effectively tackled in the Jobs Plus legislation as it had been given to understand. It hopes that the authorities will no longer continue to bury their heads in the sand on this matter and will not wake up to reality when disaster strikes. The Chamber calls for this matter to be discussed further amongst the relevant stakeholders within the Employment Relations Board or a similar forum.

END