

Dr. [REDACTED] PhD, MIACP

Counsellor & Psychotherapist

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Republic of Ireland

e-mail: [REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Website: [REDACTED]

26th September 2014

To whom it may concern,

Mr. [REDACTED] first attended my psychotherapy practice on the 11th of December 2013, presenting with severe stress and anxiety, which was subsequently diagnosed as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This means that his 'Fight or Flight' response (which is caused by the stress hormones cortisol and adrenaline) is chronically activated and unable to switch off. PTSD causes daily anxiety and can have significant deleterious effects on the body, leading to insomnia and pronounced weight loss. Furthermore, this makes [REDACTED] particularly vulnerable to subsequent stressful events, which under normal circumstances might be dealt with easily but not for those suffering with PTSD. Current research into PTSD has shown that the disorder can last anywhere from months to years and requires regular psychotherapy in addition to participation in stress reduction programs, if it is to be resolved. [REDACTED] is committed to attending psychotherapy sessions with me in order to alleviate his symptoms and resolve his PTSD, in addition to his work with occupational therapy and the psychiatric unit in the [REDACTED] Health Centre.

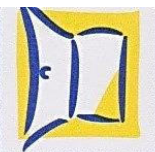
[REDACTED] PTSD is a result of prolonged and sustained abuse (that culminated in the accident on 2nd August 2012) by a single individual whom he worked for (as part of the Irish Wheelchair Association). His symptoms began soon after leaving his employer in August 2012, which is commonly the case with PTSD. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine when the symptoms of PTSD will subside; it is dependent on individual susceptibility to stress. It is hoped that with continued support [REDACTED] will recover eventually. This means that for the time being [REDACTED] is unable to withstand the common stresses of the standard work environment and therefore not in a position to gain employment.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dr. [REDACTED] (PhD)

OIFIG ACHOMHAIRC
LEASA SHÓISIALAIGH



SOCIAL WELFARE
APPEALS OFFICE

31 August 2015

Appeal No: 15/06101

PPS No: [REDACTED]

Appeal Type: OIB Disablement

Dear [REDACTED]

I have been asked by the Chief Appeals Officer to refer to your OIB Disablement appeal, and to inform you that the Appeals Officer's decision is as follows:

"The appeal is allowed."

A note on the reasons for the Appeals Officers decision is set out hereunder.

"I note the specialist evidence in this case refers to the Appellant's PTSD resulting from prolonged and sustained abuse, which culminated in an accident on 2nd August, 2012. Whereas there appears to have been a number of incidents, specifically interpersonal issues, arising in the workplace over a number of years I must consider that the appellant, particularly by reference to the specialist evidence, has established that an incident occurred on 2nd August, 2012, which led to his psychological injury. In the circumstances, I am satisfied that it has been established that the personal injury, to which the medical evidence attests, may be deemed to have been caused by an accident, in line with the provisions of Social Welfare legislation. In the circumstances, the appeal succeeds."

A copy of this letter has been sent to OIB Disablement Section of the Department of Social Protection and you should note that any enquiries regarding the implementation of the Appeals Officers decision should be directed to that section.

Yours sincerely

Laura Bourke, Clerical Officer

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