In exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 22 of the Health Act 2004, I hereby approve the qualifications, as set out hereunder, for the appointment and continuing as a Social Worker, Professionally Qualified.

1. **Professional Qualifications, Experience, etc**
   Candidates must,
   (a) in the case of individuals who qualify on or after the 31st May 2011:
       (i) must be registered or be eligible for registration in the Social Workers Register maintained by the Social Workers Registration Board maintained by the Health and Social Care Professionals Council of Ireland.

       and;

       (ii) must have the requisite knowledge and ability (including a high standard of suitability and management ability) for the proper discharge of the duties of the office.

       and;

       (iii) maintain live annual registration on the Social Workers Register maintained by the Social Workers Registration Board maintained by the Health and Social Care Professionals Council of Ireland.

       or;

   (b) in the case of individuals who qualified before the 31st May 2011:
       (i) have been engaged in the practice of the profession during the last five years for not less that 1,000 hours.

       and;

       (ii) hold the National Qualification in Social Work (N.Q.S.W.)

       or;

       (iii) the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work awarded by the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, U.K.

       or;

       (iv) a letter of accreditation issued by the National Social Work Qualifications Board.

       and;

       (v) maintain live annual registration on the Social Workers Register maintained by the Social Workers Registration Board maintained by the Health and Social Care Professionals Council of Ireland from May 2013.

       and;

   (c) the requisite knowledge and ability (including a high standard of suitability and management ability) for the proper discharge of the duties of the office.

2. **Age**
   Age restriction shall only apply to a candidate where s/he is not classified as a new entrant (within the meaning of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004). A candidate who is not classified as a new entrant must be under 65 years of age on the first day of the month in which the latest date for receiving completed application forms for the office occurs.
3. **Health**
Candidates for and any person holding the office must be fully competent and capable of undertaking the duties attached to the office and be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

4. **Character**
Candidates for and any person holding the office must be of good character.

Dated this 14th day of October two thousand and eleven.

_Séan McGrath,
National Director of Human Resources._