
INVITATION TO TENDER

- Scoping the Health of Men and Boys in Ireland

The Men's Health Forum in Ireland is inviting tenders for an initiative which will focus upon researching and analysing secondary data on the health and wellbeing of males in Ireland.

The Men's Health Forum in Ireland

The Men's Health Forum in Ireland (MHFI) is a diverse network of individuals and organisations, men and women, from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Forum was established in 1999, and operates on an all-island basis.

The Forum seeks to promote all aspects of the health and wellbeing of men and boys on the island of Ireland through research, education, practical health initiatives, training, collaborative working and awareness raising.

MHFI is, primarily, structured, organised and run using the expertise, resources and enthusiasm of volunteers. It is managed by a Board of Trustees.

'The Men's Health Forum in Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee' is registered as a company in the Republic of Ireland (491368), and is accepted as a charity by the Revenue (Reference Number: CHY19591). The Registered Company Address for the Forum is:

Carmichael House
4-7 North Brunswick Street
Dublin 7

More details about MHFI and its work can be found online at: www.mhfi.org

Background to this Tender

The Men's Health Forum in Ireland was established in response to the growing recognition of the need to address the poor health status of males on the island of Ireland. However, one of the first challenges facing MHFI was to gain access to reliable data upon which to plan future interventions. This remains an ongoing concern.

This barrier was, initially, overcome when MHFI launched its '*Men's Health in Ireland*' report in January 2004 (www.mhfi.org/fullreport.pdf). This document provided the most comprehensive overview of key statistics on local men's health ever collated up to that time. It offered clear evidence of men's health needs, and a roadmap for action. Importantly, it also provided a baseline against which to measure progress in the future.

Ireland has led the world by being the first country to have a National Men's Health Policy (www.mhfi.org/menshealthpolicy.pdf) and, more recently, the Healthy Ireland - Men Action Plan (www.mhfi.org/HI-M.pdf). MHFI has contributed to both of these developments. However, since 2004, there has been no further large scale attempt to statistically map what (if anything) has changed in the realm of male health on the island of Ireland.

In 2020, MHFI will be twenty-one years old. It is, therefore, important for the Forum to reflect upon how the health of men and boys has progressed during this period. To achieve this, MHFI is seeking to commission research which:

1. Identifies changes in male health in Ireland between 2004 and the present day.
2. Provides a detailed current snapshot of the health of men and boys.

Aim and Objectives

To coincide with its twenty-first anniversary, MHFI is seeking to strengthen the monitoring of Irish male health, inform the roll-out of practical projects, and understand the possible impact of both Healthy Ireland - Men 2017-2021 and the National Men's Health Policy (which preceded it), by producing:

1. A '**Trends Report**' that scopes and describes the broad changes in male health and gender health differences in Ireland between 2004 and 2019.
2. An Irish '**Men's Health Report Card**' that provides a focused snapshot of the most current data on the health of men and boys. The Report Card will utilise the model and infograph-driven format developed by Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, USA (www.vanderbilt.edu/crmh/2017TNMensHealthReportCard.pdf).

These two outputs will update Ireland's earlier ground-breaking work in this field, and will strengthen its reputation as a world leader in men's health issues.

*** Trends Report**

The Trends Report will be a substantive scoping document, which will use the Men's Health in Ireland 2004 report as its baseline, and will include ...

- updates on a wide range of male health statistics (which may also include ones not referenced in the original report);
- an overview of significant local, regional, national and international policy developments and programme initiatives in the area of male health;
- a review of the overall trends in male health and gender health differences, and critical reflection on progress or decline in Ireland since 2004 (using the '**WORSE - SAME - BETTER**' system utilised in the Tennessee Men's Health Report Card to graphically represent trends over time);
- the possible influence of Ireland's National Men's Health Policy and Healthy Ireland - Men 2017-2021;
- the impact of: the economic recession in Ireland; emigration; immigration; evolving working conditions and patterns; changing gender roles (e.g. stay at home dads) etc.

*** The Irish Men's Health Report Card**

The Irish Men's Health Report Card will utilise the most up-to-date statistics (gathered during compilation of the Trends Report) to provide a concise snapshot of the current state of male health in the Republic of Ireland only. These will focus upon the key priority programme areas within 'Healthy Ireland'. This will be an infograph-driven publication - similar in structure, layout and format to the Tennessee Men's Health Report Card.

[The contractor will be expected to produce a fully-formatted and proofed ready-to-use version of the content for this document in Microsoft Word format. However, they will not be responsible for the artwork or the print design]*

Key Markers of Men's Health

Where reliable data is available and accessible, these two reports will reference:

1. Male demographics (e.g. percentage of population, age distribution, ethnicity, educational attainment, income, relationship status)
2. Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy
3. Leading causes of death and illness
4. Major health conditions (e.g. circulatory diseases, respiratory diseases, cancer)
5. Specific conditions (e.g. prostate cancer, BPH, testicular cancer, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, mental illness and behavioural disorders, suicide, self-harm, breast cancer)
6. Social harms (e.g. perpetrator or victim of a physical assault / rape and sexual assault / domestic violence / road traffic accident / homicide, as well as convictions in a court, percentage of the prison population)
7. Health behaviours (e.g. eating, physical activity, tobacco use, alcohol / drug intake)
8. Help / care seeking behaviours and use of available services
9. Specific health services (if any) available for men
10. Social determinants of men's health
11. 'At risk' groups of men (e.g. Traveller men, men in direct provision, rural isolated men)

Metrics could include death rates, prevalence, incidence, hospital discharges and service utilisation.

Analysis will consider trends in sex-age specific markers of men's health, with North-South / other local geographic comparisons and comparisons to EU-15 / EU-27. Where feasible, socio-economic patterning in trends will be highlighted.

Purpose of Outputs

The Trends Report and the Irish Men's Health Report Card will, primarily, be used to start a conversation about male health issues and needs among policy makers, funding bodies and service providers. It is hoped that these documents will provide a template / baseline for future monitoring, as well as a clear sense of:

- whether the health of men and boys is improving, standing still or worsening;
- the gaps in current data and service provision;
- opportunities that may exist to initiate new work or strengthen existing projects;
- where additional effort and resources need to be applied.

Project Management

This project will be:

- Coordinated by MHFI's Director of Operations.
- Supervised by members of MHFI's Board of Trustees.
- Guided by a wider Advisory Group - comprised of people with in-depth knowledge of men's health issues (including Prof Derek Griffith from the Centre for Men's Health Research at Vanderbilt University, Tennessee).
- Informed by a 'Reference Panel' of subject-specific experts.

The researcher(s) appointed will work closely with the MHFI Director of Operations and Supervisors, and will make regular reports to the Advisory Group.

Timeframe

This work must be completed by no later than Wednesday 30th September 2020 - to allow time for MHFI to arrange for the design and printing of these two documents before their launch in mid-November 2020. All documentation must be fully proofed and submitted in Word format.

Budget

The maximum budget that will be considered for this initiative is €22,000. However, please note that this is the total figure. Tender bids must not exceed this amount, and must clearly state that they include all relevant expenses (such as travel, subsistence, telephone, photocopying, insurance, overheads, VAT, PRSI etc.).

Status of Contractor

The person(s) awarded this contract will act in a self-employed consultancy capacity. They will be responsible for all their own tax affairs, office supplies, transport, equipment, gaining access to data and academic literature etc.

Tender Format

Tender submissions must include the following:

- Name of the primary contact person.
- Organisation / company name.
- Full contact details (e.g. postal address, telephone, email and website).
- Organisation / company overview (e.g. history, aims, ethos, size, structure, quality standards attained etc.).
- Examples of recent work undertaken which is similar to our requirements.
- Project Development Plan (i.e. how you would propose to meet our requirements - including a timeline).
- Data sources that will be utilised.
- Details of who will take the lead (and, if applicable, supporting responsibility) for this project - including a brief CV of each person.
- A detailed breakdown of the total cost for this project and the suggested payment schedule - all figures must include VAT where applicable.
- Commitment to complete the project within the timeframe required.
- Names and full contact details of two referees whom we can contact to ask about your previous work.

PLEASE NOTE: As the deadline for receiving bids is quite short, the selection panel will not expect very lengthy submissions. However, it is crucial that all of the above criteria are met.

Closing Date for Submissions

The deadline for return of tender submissions will be 5.00pm on Friday 24th January 2020. Late tenders will not be accepted.

Only electronic applications will be considered. Please send tenders by email, along with a CV, to: tenders@mhfi.org

Assessment of Applications

Tenders will be assessed by a Selection Panel against evidence of:

- Understanding of our needs.
- Appropriateness of the methodology proposed.
- Presentation of a clear, detailed and structured work plan.
- Relevance of experience.
- Commitment and ability to complete the task within our timescale.
- Value for money.
- Overall quality of the tender bid in terms of clarity and presentation.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by Friday 31st January 2020.

Any Other Questions

Please contact Colin Fowler at Email: colin@mhfi.org if you have any other questions.