



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

To All MPs in England and Wales

28th June 2022

Dear Colleague,

**RE: Publication of the draft Mental Health Bill**

Yesterday we published the [draft Mental Health Bill](#) ahead of pre-legislative scrutiny.

In yesterday's statement to the House, the Government set out how the measures it contains will update the legislative framework that supports people with severe mental illnesses, giving people more say over their care and ensuring they're treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

In this year's Queen's Speech, the Government committed to bringing forward legislation to reform the Mental Health Act. This will take us a step closer towards the fulfilment of two Manifesto commitments to:

- "legislate so that patients suffering from mental health conditions have greater control of their treatment and receive the dignity and respect they deserve"
- "make it easier for people with learning disability and autism to be discharged from hospital and improve how they are treated in law"

The draft Mental Health Bill will do this by taking forward the recommendations for reform made by Sir Simon Wessely in his 2018 Independent Review of the Mental Health Act. This Independent Review was commissioned to address a number of issues with the current Mental Health Act, including rising rates of detention and the disproportionate number of people from black and minority ethnic groups who were being detained.

The Independent Review and the resulting White Paper were both undertaken in collaboration with key mental health stakeholders, and those with lived experience. The proposals were warmly welcomed by those in the mental health sector and in Parliament.

The reforms set out in the White Paper will shift the balance of power from the system to the patient, giving people more say over their care and treatment, and more opportunities to make clear what works for them.

The reforms will also help to tackle significant disparities in the number of people from ethnic minority backgrounds detained under the Mental Health Act, and make it easier for people with

a learning disability and autistic people detained under Part II of the Act to be discharged from hospital.

The publication of this draft Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny is a significant milestone. It will provide service users, their loved ones, professionals, and parliamentarians with an important opportunity to ensure their voices are heard. Following conclusion of pre-legislative scrutiny, it is our intention to introduce the Mental Health Bill as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

Gillian Keegan, the Minister of State for Care and Mental Health will be hosting a roundtable for colleagues on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July between 12:30-1:30 to provide you with the opportunity to discuss the contents of the Bill and ask any questions you may have.

Our colleague Lord Kamall, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Technology, Innovation and Life Sciences will also host a roundtable for Peers and will provide further information on the details of this session shortly.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you all, through pre-legislative scrutiny and beyond to deliver lasting change to the lives of those affected by serious mental health issues.



**RT HON SAJID JAVID MP**



**GILLIAN KEEGAN MP**