



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

Easy Read version of: Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Act 2018. Statutory guidance for NHS organisations in England, and police forces in England and Wales - Consultation Questionnaire

# The law about use of force in mental health units

What do you think?



easy  
read



# Introduction



The Government has written guidance to help people understand the law about **using force** in **Mental Health Units**.



**Using force** means to stop somebody from doing something.



A **Mental Health Unit** is where people stay for treatment for their mental health condition.



We want to know what you think about the guidance. There is a separate Easy Read version.



Please tell us what you think by answering the questions in this questionnaire.



We need your answers by 12pm on Tuesday, 17 August 2021.

# About you



**Question 1:** Are you answering these questions for an organisation or for yourself?

for myself

for an organisation



**Question 2:** How old are you?

14 to 17

18 to 24

25 to 29

30 to 39

40 to 49

50 to 59

60 to 69

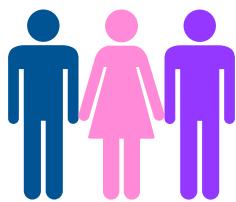
70 to 79

80 or above



### Question 3: Are you...

- Male
- Female



### Question 4: Is your gender the same as the one you were given when you were born?

- Yes
- No

If you said ‘no’, what word do you use to describe your gender now?



### Question 5: Are you...

- White
- From more than one ethnic group
- Asian
- Black
- Prefer not to say
- Another ethnic group



**Question 6:** Are you disabled? This could be a physical disability or a learning disability, or both.

- Yes  
 No



**Question 7:** If you are answering for an organisation, what do you do in that organisation?



**Question 8:** Are you a healthcare professional?

- Yes  
 No



**Question 9:** Do you work for the NHS?

- Yes  
 No

## **Question 10: What sort of work do you do?**



- NHS or health service
- Social care
- Government
- I work for a company
- Local council
- Charity or community organisation
- Retired
- Student
- Other



## **Question 11: What is the name of your organisation?**

## **Question 12: Have you ever had force used against you in a mental health unit?**



- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say
- Not applicable

# What do you think about the guidance?



These questions ask you what you think about parts of the Government's guidance about using force in mental health units.



The law about using force in mental health units is called 'The Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Act 2018'.

## What words mean

The guidance explains what the law says these words mean:



- Mental Disorder
- Mental Health Unit
- Use of force
- Physical restraint
- Mechanical restraint
- Chemical restraint
- Seclusion
- (Long-term) segregation.



### Question 13a: Does the guidance help you to understand what these words mean?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain why you say this.



### Question 13b: Does the guidance explain where the Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Act 2018 applies to?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain why you say this.



## The responsible person

The guidance says that a senior person in each mental health unit should be responsible for making sure that staff follow the law.



**Question 14a:** Is the guidance clear about what the responsible person should do?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please explain why you say this.

**Question 14b:** Is the guidance clear that the responsible person must have training about using force properly?



Yes

No

Not sure

Please explain why you say this.



## Policy on the use of force

The guidance says that each mental health unit should write its own **policy** on using force.



A **policy** is a set of rules about:

- how things should be done
- how staff should behave.



**Question 15:** Does the guidance explain what the policy should include?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If you said 'no', please explain what else should be included in the policy on the use of force section of the guidance.



## Information on the use of force

The guidance explains what information should be given to patients about the use of force.



**Question 16:** Does the guidance explain what information should be given to patients?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If you said 'no', please explain what else should be in the information on the use of force section of the guidance.



# Training

The guidance explains what training should be given to staff about the use of force.



**Question 17:** Does the guidance explain what training should be given to staff?

Yes

No

Not sure

If you said 'no', please explain what else should be included.



## Recording the use of force

The guidance explains records should be kept about the use of force.



**Question 18:** Does the guidance explain what records should be kept about the use of force?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please explain why you say this.

# Negligible use of force



**Negligible force** means using a small amount of force in daily caring and treatment.



The guidance explains that some types of force are not negligible.



**Question 19:** Do you agree with the types of force that are not negligible?



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure



**Question 20:** Is there anything else that should be included on the list?



**Question 21:** Do you agree or disagree that mental health units should not have to keep a record, every time that negligible force is used?



Strongly agree



Agree



Disagree



Strongly disagree



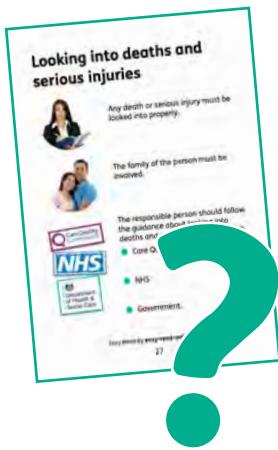
Not sure

Please explain why you say this.



# Looking into deaths and serious injuries

The guidance explains how deaths and serious injuries should be looked into.



**Question 22:** Does the guidance explain what should happen after a death or serious injury?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please explain why you say this.

# Other questions



**Question 23:** Do you agree or disagree that the guidance explains what the law says mental health units have to do?



Strongly agree



Agree



Disagree



Strongly disagree



Not sure

Please explain why you say this.



**Question 24:** Do you agree or disagree that the guidance wants to reduce the amount of force that is being used?



Strongly agree



Agree



Disagree



Strongly disagree



Not sure

Please explain why you say this.



**Question 25:** Do you agree or disagree that the guidance explains that force should only be used when everything else has been tried?



- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure

Please explain why you say this.



**Question 26:** Do you agree or disagree that the guidance explains that staff should use different ways of dealing with children than adults?



Strongly agree



Agree



Disagree



Strongly disagree



Not sure

Please explain why you say this.



**Question 27:** Do you agree or disagree that the guidance explains that people must not be treated unfairly because of who they are, their background or beliefs?



Strongly agree



Agree



Disagree



Strongly disagree



Not sure

Please explain why you say this.



**Question 28:** Do you agree or disagree that the guidance explains that patients and their families should be involved in decisions about their care?



Strongly agree



Agree



Disagree



Strongly disagree



Not sure

Please explain why you say this.

# Thank you



Thank you for your answers.



Please now send your answers back by email to:

**MHUnitsUOFConsultation@dhsc.gov.uk**



We need your answers by 12pm on Tuesday, 17 August 2021.