



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Easy
Read

Letter to Baroness Hollins



Easy Read



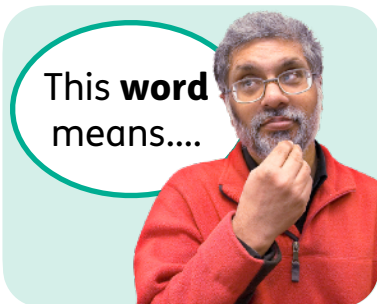
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet

About this letter4

The letter6

About this letter



This letter is from the Minister for Mental Health and Women’s Health Strategy to Baroness Hollins.

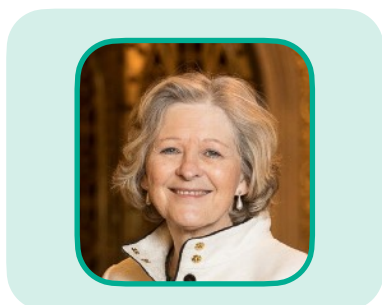


The Minister for Mental Health and Women’s Health Strategy is called **Maria Caulfield**.

She helps to run the **Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)**.



Maria Caulfield wrote this letter to **Baroness Hollins**.



Baroness Hollins has been helping us with a project called ‘**Independent Care (Education) and Treatment Reviews**’.



This is where a group of experts checked on the care that people with a learning disability and autistic people in **long-term segregation** in hospital were getting.



Long-term segregation is when people are kept away from other people.



Baroness Hollins is the head of the group that worked on this. They are called the '**Oversight Panel**'.



They wrote to us at the DHSC with some ideas for how to reduce the number of people in long-term segregation in hospitals.



These ideas are called **recommendations**.

We at the DHSC have read their recommendations.



This is our answer to them.

The letter

Dear Baroness Hollins,



Thank you for your work to improve the lives of people with a learning disability and autistic people.



You have worked very hard on ways to stop people with a learning disability and autistic people being kept away from other people when they are in hospital.

You have helped us to understand:



- Why people with a learning disability and autistic people are sometimes kept away from other people when they are in hospital.



- The effect that being kept away from others can have on people with a learning disability and autistic people.



We agree that too many people with a learning disability and autistic people are kept away from other people when they are in hospital.

We want this to happen much less.



Too often, people with a learning disability and autistic people do not get the good care that they should get.

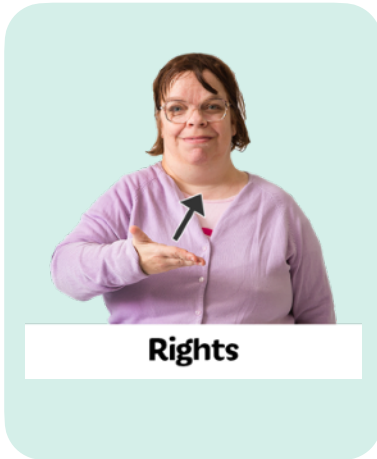


Some people have moved out, and are not in long-term segregation any more.



But too many people are still kept away from other people.

People with a learning disability and autistic people should only be kept away from other people in hospital if:



- Health and care staff respect their **rights**.

Rights are things that every person should have by law. Like the right to be safe and treated fairly.



- They stay in a place that is safe and follows **standards**.

Standards are ways of checking that something is good enough.



When health and care staff write plans, called care and treatment plans, the plans should try to help people leave long-term segregation.



People who are kept away from other people should get good health care, to make sure that they are happy and healthy.

Recommendations



We have read your **recommendations**.

Recommendations are ideas for how to change.



You said that it is important that we keep checking on the care that people in long-term segregation in hospital get.



To do this, we will carry on doing **'Independent Care (Education) and Treatment Reviews'** for 2 more years.



This will be done by the **Care Quality Commission (CQC)**.

The **Care Quality Commission (CQC)** is an organisation that checks the standard of health and social care services in England.



You said that health and care services should tell the Care Quality Commission if they put someone in long-term segregation.



We are thinking of making changes so that health and care services must do this.



This will help the Care Quality Commission to quickly check on the care that the person is getting.



This will support services to give the person:

- Safe care and treatment.



- As much freedom as possible.



You also said that the whole NHS needs to think differently about keeping people with a learning disability and autistic people away from other people.



We agree, and the NHS are working on a project to do this.



The project will make health services safer and better.

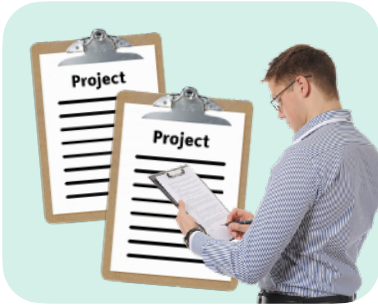


To do this, they have worked with different groups, including people and their families.



For some of your recommendations, we will need to do more work.

This includes looking at the results from some projects.



These projects wanted to stop people being kept away from other people.

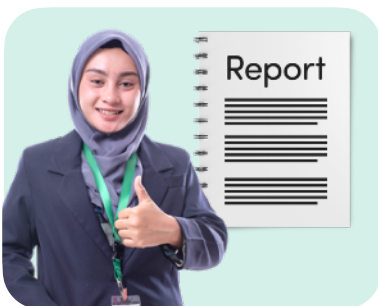
We need to see if they worked.



We are working with the NHS and Care Quality Commission to check if these recommendations will work.



For some recommendations, we will need to make bigger changes.



We will use your report to help us decide what to do when we make big changes.



Thank you

Thank you again for all your work.



It will help us to make changes to the care people get.



This will support people with a learning disability and autistic people to get better, safer care.

This Easy Read booklet was produced by easy-read-online.co.uk
The booklet includes images licensed from Photosymbols & Shutterstock.