



UK National Preventive Mechanism
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Professor Sir Simon Wessely
Chair, Independent Review of the Mental Health Act
MHAReviewEvidence@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Professor Wessely

RE: Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983

I wrote to you on 22 January 2018 to submit evidence to the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act that you chair. In that letter I promised to share details of joint thematic work conducted by members of the National Preventive Mechanism examining the pathways and transitions between different detention settings. I am pleased to say the findings of that work have now been published in the NPM's Eighth Annual Report.

The NPM's work focussed on the pathways between: different mental health settings (including national, regional and local secure mental services); police custody and mental health settings; prisons and mental health settings. The research draws on the experience of our members to analyse the risks of ill-treatment involved in different pathways that relate in some way to mental health needs. We make a number of recommendations for improving the way that the current pathways operate. Given your review's Terms of Reference note a concern about "the time required to take decisions and arrange transfers for patients subject to criminal proceedings", our findings and recommendations for future action on mental health related pathways will be relevant to your work.

Section Two of the NPM's Annual Report gives details of this joint, thematic work (see pages 30-49 of the Annual Report for findings relevant to mental health: https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/npm-prod-storage-19n0nag2nk8xk/uploads/2018/02/6.4122_NPM_AR2016-17_v4_web.pdf).

I trust you and your team will find this material of interest.

Yours sincerely,

John Wadham
Chair
UK National Preventive Mechanism