



Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
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7 May 2020

Dear Matt

As you know, the Joint Committee on Human Rights has taken a strong interest in the human rights of young people who are autistic and/or who have learning disabilities in mental health detention. I refer you to our report *The detention of young people with learning disabilities and/or autism*, published on 1 November 2019.

We are very concerned about the lack of transparency over the number of those who are autistic and/or who have learning disabilities who have contracted and have died from COVID-19. It is positive that Public Health England has convened a panel to analyse deaths of people with learning disabilities and autism from COVID-19, as reported in the Health Service Journal (6 May 2020) but we urge the Government to commit to publishing these important figures as soon as possible.

In addition, we would be grateful if you could write to us ahead of the oral evidence session we are holding on 18 May to tell us how many people who are autistic and/or who have learning disabilities in mental health inpatient units (both mainstream and specialist units) have i) contracted and ii) died from COVID 19. Please provide this broken down by age group.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP
Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights

CC. Helen Whately MP, Minister for State for Care, Department of Health and Social Care