



Joint Committee on Human Rights

Committee Office · House of Commons · London · SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 2797 Email JCHR@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk



From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

By Email.

24 September 2020

Dear Matt,

I am writing regarding the Care Quality Commission's report published yesterday on Cygnet Yew Trees hospital. Yet again horrific abuse of people with learning disabilities has been revealed, that could and should have been prevented.

My Committee published a report on the detention of young people who are autistic and/or who have learning disabilities in November 2019 and a subsequent report examining the impact of measures taken to address Covid-19 on this group in June 2020. These reports made a comprehensive set of recommendations that if acted upon would end inappropriate detention and protect the human rights of those detained. We have not yet received a response to either of these reports and I would now ask that you respond to them as a matter of urgency.

I have also written today to the Care Quality Commission to ask them about their inspection of Cygnet Yew Trees and why the abuse was not detected and acted on more rapidly.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP

Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights