



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

POC_1395544

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

25 February 2022

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 January on our plans to reform the Mental Health Act and for forwarding your correspondence from Stephen Hinchley at VoiceAbility.

It very much remains the intention of the Government to legislate, as we outlined in our White Paper, Reforming the Mental Health Act, last year.

We will be seeking changes to the Mental Health Act to empower individuals to shape their own care and treatment, providing them with greater choice and influence over their care. We want to improve the Act so that it works to ensure that patients receive a therapeutic benefit when made to stay in hospital for their mental health. We will also restrict the use of the Act for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

As a top priority, we need, through legislation and practice, and through enhanced support and representation of patients, to do far more to address the racial disparities that exist within the way the Act is used.

Please be assured that colleagues within both the Ministry of Justice and the Department of Health and Social Care are now working hard to develop a reforming Mental Health Bill. It will be brought forward in due course, when Parliamentary time allows.

I look forward to further discussions with you on this matter.

Yours ever,

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP