

*From: Professor Roy McClelland
Chairman*

**The Bamford Review of Mental
Health & Learning Disability (NI)
Room 9, Annex 6
Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST. BT4 3PP**

Phone: 028 9052 3481

Fax: 028 9052 3482

Dear Colleague

April 2006

**THE BAMFORD REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING
DISABILITY (NORTHERN IRELAND)**

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Introduction

I am writing to ask for your comments on the Review's latest draft report, which deals with human rights and equality of opportunity issues affecting people with mental ill-health or a learning disability.

Background

As you may know, the current Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability in Northern Ireland commenced in October 2002. The Review is managed by a Steering Committee, which oversees the detailed work of 10 Expert Working Committees, each examining specific areas and issues.

The attached draft report, endorsed by the Steering Committee, represents the latest product from the Review. It is the result of over two years' work by the Human Rights and Equality Group, convened by Lady Christine Eames OBE. This work has included consultation with stakeholders throughout, including the contributions of users of services, their carers and families.

The Report

Respect for and compliance with human rights and equality of opportunity requirements have been central to the way in which we have conducted the Review and to the Steering Committee's vision for the future provision of services here for people with a mental health problem or a learning disability. This report is, therefore, a key product from our work. The issues discussed overlap with and impact to some degree on all of the reports we are producing, but especially on those on promoting social inclusion and on reform of the law, which will be published in the near future.

The report examines and makes recommendations on a number of key issues affecting adults and children with a mental health problem or a learning disability, including on:

- access to rights;
- the right to vote, found a family and to life;
- education rights;
- capacity and incapacity;
- involuntary detention;
- advocacy; and
- representation at Mental Health Review Tribunals.

In doing this, several recommendations signify on how the current law should be reformed, and in this way the report foreshadows detailed proposals for a substantial revision of legislation which will come from the Review's Legal Issues Committee.

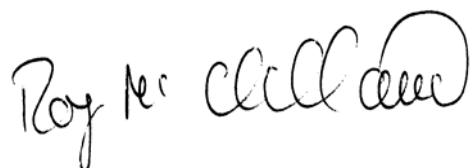
Consultation

We are anxious to hear your views on this draft report and its proposals. In responding, it would be particularly helpful if you linked your comments to specific chapters, paragraphs and recommendations. The document has been issued to a wide range of key interests and stakeholders and been placed on the Review's website (www.rmhdni.gov.uk/)

We would ask for your comments on the report **by Wednesday 31 May 2006 at the latest**. These should be sent by post, fax or email to Sean Ferrin at the above address (tel. no: 028 90 523481. email: sean.ferrin@dhsspsni.gov.uk).

We look forward to receiving your views, which will be fully considered in finalising this report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy McClelland', written in a cursive style.

Roy McClelland (Professor)

Enc.