

*From: Professor Roy McClelland  
Chairman*

**The Bamford Review of Mental  
Health & Learning Disability (NI)  
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Dear Colleague

16 February 2007

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

**A COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

**Introduction**

I am writing to ask for your comments on the enclosed draft Report, which deals with the reform of the law affecting people with mental ill-health or a learning disability.

**Background**

As you may know, the Bamford 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, is the last from the Review. It is the result of over three years' work by the Legal Issues Expert Working Committee, convened by Master Brian Hall. This work has included consultation with stakeholders throughout, including the contributions of users of services, their carers and families, together with external experts.

**The Report**

The draft Report proposes a comprehensive, integrated, legislative Framework for the support and protection of people who have a mental disorder or a learning disability, or who lack capacity to make some decisions about their daily lives. The Framework is principles-based and adopts a capacity approach.

The need for reform of particular features of the current Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 is considered in the opening Chapters, with the key proposals for the Framework set out in Chapters 4, 5 and 6. Chapter 7 provides a Model of how such a Framework approach might operate in practice.

## 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/](http://www.rmhdni.gov.uk/))

We would ask for your comments on the report **by Friday 27 April 2007 at the latest**. These should be sent by post, fax or email to Angela McLoughlin at the above address (tel. no: 028 90 765729. email: [angela.mcloughlin@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:angela.mcloughlin@dhsspsni.gov.uk) fax no: 028 90 523482).

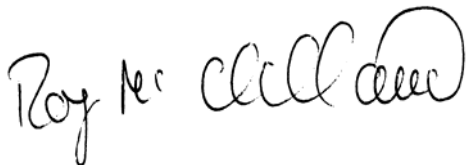
We are conscious that many of the issues discussed in this Report are complex and that the Review's proposals are quite radical. We are, therefore, organising 4 information seminars throughout Northern Ireland during the consultation period, to assist stakeholders to respond. These seminars (dates, times and venues attached) will comprise a short presentation on the Report and its recommendations, followed by an opportunity to discuss issues and to seek clarification on particular points.

Should you wish to attend one of these seminars, please complete the reply slip which is also attached and send it to Lynsey Stephenson in the Review's Support Team (in Annex 6, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast. BT4 3PP) **by Wednesday 28 February, at the latest**, in the envelope provided. We will then write to those who have replied with fuller details on the events.

In addition, the Review will be jointly hosting with the Law Centre (NI) a seminar on 1 March. The Centre will be writing separately to individuals and organisations about this.

We trust you will find these seminars helpful and look forward to seeing you and to receiving your comments, which will be fully considered in the finalisation of the Report.

Yours sincerely

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

**Roy McClelland (Professor)**  
**Chairman**

Enc.

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

**DRAFT REPORT – A COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

**INFORMATION SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

**Northern Board Area**

Thursday 15 March 2007, at the Rosspark Hotel, Kells.

10.00am to 12.00 noon

**Southern Board Area**

Friday 16 March 2007, at St. Patrick's Trian Centre, Armagh.

10.00am to 12.00 noon

**Eastern Board Area**

Friday 9 March 2007, at the Lagan Valley Island Civic Centre, Lisburn.

2.00pm to 4.00pm

**Western Board Area**

Thursday 22 March 2007, at the White Horse Hotel, Londonderry

2.00pm to 4.00pm

**REPLY SLIP**

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

**INFORMATION SEMINARS ON THE DRAFT REPORT ON THE REFORM  
OF LEGISLATION**

I wish to attend the seminar in the \_\_\_\_\_ Board area  
(Please insert Northern, Southern, Eastern, or Western as appropriate)

**Name:**

**Contact:**    **E-mail**    \_\_\_\_\_  
                  **Address**    \_\_\_\_\_  
                  **Telephone**    \_\_\_\_\_

**Any Specific/Special Requirements:**

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**Particular Issues You Wish To Raise:**

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