

To task force

Dear,

We are writing to you in relation to the work of the Deputy Prime Minister's Mental Health Task Force.

An underlying principle of mental health policy is that although coercive measures may sometimes be necessary, these should always be the least restrictive option possible, and should be proportionate to the risks posed by the situation.

In 2007 the 1983 Mental Health Act was amended to accommodate perceived need for coercive restrictions upon individuals no longer requiring inpatient treatment; the introduction of Supervised Treatment or Community Treatment Orders. Research has now clarified that these are ineffective and their continuing use amounts to an unnecessarily restrictive practice. Related legislation requires a review.

A short paper outlining these matters in a little more detail is enclosed and we ask that such a review be considered.

Jo & Hugh