



Learning Disability England's statement on the Equality and Human Rights Commission's legal action against the Secretary of State for Health.



As an organisation and a membership, we are pleased to see the rights of people with learning disabilities and autistic people being championed through this legal challenge.



We know that this system being allowed to carry on has had a devastating effect on people with learning disabilities and autism who are detained in secure hospitals, far from their families and loved ones.



We support a Human Rights Approach in all services and firmly believe that people have the right to independent living and be included in their community.



The Human Rights of people with learning disabilities and autistic people have been ignored for far too long.



It is time that action is taken to make sure people have the same and equal choices on where they live as their non-disabled peers.



LDE supports the work of Rightful Lives and their 8 Point Plan, which offers immediate and sustainable solutions.

We need transparency and action now.



We know that this action comes from the work of many people who have been in this system, families and their allies telling the truth of their experiences and lobbying for change.

We hope the Secretary of State takes the opportunity to listen to them and act on the solutions available.



What this is about

On 12th February the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has written to the Health Minister, Matt Hancock



The letter says they think that the government have broken human rights law by not doing enough to make sure people with learning disabilities and autistic people in hospitals can live somewhere that is right for them.



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Health Secretary faces legal challenge for failing patients with learning disabilities and autism

The letter says that the government has not done what it said it would in Transforming Care or Building the Right Support. The EHRC says they think that breaks the European Convention of Human Rights.

They say that not making the changes to the system is a failure to protect the rights to a private and family life.

Also, they think if the system carries on people are not being protected from inhuman and degrading treatment.

The EHRC are also asking for people to have a legal right to independent living.

The letter says they will not start the legal action if the Minister agrees to an action plan on the changes that are needed

You can read the EHRC statement here <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/health-secretary-faces-legal-challenge-failing-patients-learning-disabilities-and>