

Learning from Loss

Tell us about your experience of the investigation of the death of a person being treated for mental illness, personality disorder, or learning disability

FAMILIES AND CARERS SURVEY



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Introduction

The Scottish Government is carrying out a review of the arrangements currently in place for investigating the deaths of people being treated for mental illness, personality disorder or learning disability.

As part of this review we want to hear from people who have experience of these investigations. This includes where people have died by suicide. If you are a family member, carer or friend of someone who died and can tell us more about what investigation there was (or if there was no investigation at all) then we would like to hear from you. We understand that you might find this difficult and we are very grateful to anyone who takes the time to contribute to this review in any way.

Help us to understand what happens at the moment

When someone dies when they are receiving care and treatment, several different organisations can be involved in looking into what happened. These can include health and social care organisations as well as justice organisations and others.

However, it's very important that we get the views of families, carers and friends who have direct experience of these investigations so that we can understand what does and doesn't work well. We can then help others in a similar situation. Families, carers, and friends will have a unique viewpoint, which will be different to that of the services involved.

To do this we have set up an online survey to gather information on people's experiences. However, if you have difficulty accessing the survey, or would prefer not to use it, you can speak to a carer support worker from your local carer centre, or contact one of the organisations helping us with this work, their details are on page 4 of leaflet.

The situations we want to know about

We would like to know about investigations which took place where someone died, in Scotland, when they were:

- detained in hospital under mental health laws
- detained in hospital after criminal court proceedings
- in hospital on a voluntary basis (in other words, not detained under mental health laws) for treatment for mental illness, personality disorder or learning disability
- living in the community and required by mental health laws to have treatment for their mental illness, personality disorder or learning disability

How we will use the responses

As we can't provide individual responses to the things you put in your survey, please don't use it to raise a complaint. If you wish to make a complaint then you can find information on how to get help with that at the end of the leaflet.

We will treat your information confidentially. You do not need to give us your name or the name of your friend or relative if you do not want to. If you give us your email address then we can let you know when the review is completed and send you a copy of the report.

We will use the information you provide to understand more about how deaths are investigated at the moment and how we can improve this process.

Your response will not be published.

We want to know what mattered to you most about how the death was investigated. Your views are important in this work.

You can access the online survey by visiting the following link:

<https://consult.gov.scot/mental-health-law/investigation-of-deaths-survey-for-families-carers>

Organisational contact details

Carers Trust Scotland

www.carers.org/country/carers-trust-scotland

telephone: 0300 123 2008

email: scotland@carers.org

Edinburgh Carers Council

www.edinburghcarerscouncil.co.uk

telephone: 0131 322 8480

email: info@edinburghcarerscouncil.co.uk

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland

www.mwscot.org.uk

telephone: 0800 389 6809

email: enquiries@mwscot.org.uk

SAMH, the Scottish Association for Mental Health

www.samh.org.uk

telephone: 0141 530 1000

Support in Mind Scotland

www.supportinmindscotland.org.uk

telephone: 0131 662 4359

email: info@supportinmindscotland.org.uk

VOX Scotland

www.voxscotland.org.uk

telephone: 0141 572 1663

email: info@voxscotland.org.uk

Further information and support

The mygov.scot website has information on the support available to people who are dealing with the death of someone close to them:

www.mygov.scot/bereavement-support/

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland can provide information and advice on rights in relation to mental health and incapacity law, and care and treatment.

You can call the Commission on 0800 389 6809. More information is available at:

www.mwscot.org.uk/contact-us/

If you would like to make a complaint about NHS services, care services, or social work services, you can find out how to do this at:

www.mygov.scot/care-complain-feedback/overview/

If you would like to make a complaint about private/independent healthcare services, you can find out how to do this at:

www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/about-us/contact-healthcare-improvement/complaints.aspx

This survey forms part of the Scottish Government's work to review the arrangements for investigating the deaths of patients – who at the time of death were in hospital, voluntarily or subject to detention, for treatment for mental disorder – as set out in section 37 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015.