

# 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

## STAFF SURVEY



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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## 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. Once the review has been completed we will publish it and present it to the Scottish Parliament.

As part of this review the review team wants to hear from those who work with people with mental disorder (as defined in the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003) who have experience of these investigations. This includes staff members who have worked with people who have died by suicide. If you work for NHS Scotland, a local authority, a third sector organisation, a social care provider, or an independent healthcare provider and have had a client or patient die and then been involved in a subsequent investigation, your views about the investigation are important to the review team. We acknowledge that this may be difficult for some members of staff and are very grateful to anyone who takes the time to contribute to the 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.

It is very important that the review takes account of the views of staff members who have direct experience of these investigations so that it can understand what does and doesn't work well. The review report and conclusions can then help improve future investigations.

To do this the review team have set up an online survey to gather information on staff members' experiences.

## 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 (including on those on pass or leave)
- 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, learning disability, or personality disorder (NHS or independent)
- living in the community and required by mental health laws to have treatment for their mental illness, learning disability or personality disorder

## How we will use the responses

As the review can't provide individual responses please don't use this survey to raise a complaint. Your information will be treated confidentially. You do not need to give us your name. If you choose to give your email address then you can be sent information about the review once it is completed.

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

**Your response will not be published.**

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

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

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.