Isle of Man
Mental Health Commission

Protecting the rights of those detained under the Mental Health Act

The Isle of Man Mental Health Commission is independent of the Department of Health.

Commissioners are from a wide range of backgrounds, including doctors, psychologists, lawyers and lay people.
The Mental Health Commission protects the rights of those detained under the Mental Health Act and makes sure that the Act is being used correctly.

The Commission:

- Checks that you are lawfully detained and well cared for.
- Checks that you are informed about your rights under the Mental Health Act.
- Makes sure that you know how to apply to the Mental Health Review Tribunal, or to the Hospital Managers, about your discharge from hospital.
- Visits people detained in hospital and asks them about their experiences. Information that you provide will not be passed on without your agreement.
- Inspects paperwork to check that it is in order.
- Meets with Managers and other staff to talk about things affecting your care and treatment.
The Mental Health Commissioners can:

- Listen to any problems that you have relating to your detention, such as issues with the staff or conditions on the ward.
- Deal with some types of complaint.
- Arrange for an independent doctor from the United Kingdom to review your treatment in certain circumstances.
- Visit and observe the conditions on the wards.
- Publish reports evaluating the service on the wards.

The Mental Health Commissioners cannot:

- Discharge patients.
- Arrange patient transfers.
- Offer medical advice.
- Offer individual legal advice.
- Arrange leave for patients.
How to contact the Mental Health Commission:

- Ask to see a member of the Commission at their next visit.
- Contact the Commission via their Clerk:
  - PO Box 86, Douglas, IM99 3SD
  - Email: mhcom@manx.net
- Letters to the Commission are confidential and cannot be stopped or opened by hospital staff.

For more information please see:
