

To: The Chair of the Committee, David Melding AM and Anna Daniel (Clerk to Committee)

Dear Mr Melding and Ms Daniel,

**Evidence: Proposed Provision of Mental Health Services LCO
Committee – The National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence)
(No 6) Order 2008 (Relating to Provision of Mental Health Services)**

As Secretary to the Police Federation in Wales, I am writing to you with respect to the Mental Health LCO that you are currently progressing. I note that you have called for 'evidence' with a deadline of the 25th April.

The Police Federation has an interest in this matter and we would like to give oral advice to the Committee in this respect. I note that you are seeking evidence, however, as you are essentially looking at strategic matters in relation to the LCO, we would rather focus upon the genre of strategic advice that could help the committee in its further understanding .

Essentially, there are two areas that the Federation consider that it would be important to advise the Committee upon. These are in relation to questions three and five of your consultation, whereby you are seeking views on:

the "proposal to impose duties on the Health Service to provide assessment of and treatment for mentally disordered persons and should it cover duties on other bodies? " ;

and also;

"In relation to assessment of persons and advocacy services, the matter applies to persons "who are or may be mentally disordered". What are your views on this?"

The Police Federation has examined the legislative process that you will need to follow and it is clear that between this consultation (strategic) and those thereafter (detailed) that there are significant issues that impact upon the four Welsh police forces and our members. We would advise that these need to be communicated to the committee members very early during the legislative route.

Essentially, and from a strategic point, there is a deep and unclear definition - or indeed understanding - in relation to first referral of mental health patients and then how they are processed by 'the police'. The scope of the LCO has substantial potential to ensure some future clarity in this matter to benefit 'the patient'.

As such, we would wish to appraise Committee members of the processes that we are legally bound to follow and also of some areas that certainly will require a strategic understanding by the Committee particularly in relation

to the hands-on issues that 'the police' face on a daily basis and which the LCO may well help to solve. We would present to the Committee police experts in the area of this competence who can advise you succinctly.

I look forward to hearing from you and, in the interim, I am of course, fully available to advise you in advance of the issues, in particular should you wish to defer any advice we can give to another date.

Yours sincerely,

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