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23rd April 2008

David Melding AM

**Chair of the Proposed Provision of Mental Health Services
Legislative Competence Order Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA**

Dear David

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

I am writing on behalf of the Mental Health Services in Wrexham and Flintshire in relation to the above. Please find enclosed comments.

We feel that it is important that the unique characteristics of Wales are maintained and developed through the Welsh Assembly and therefore the principle of having legislative competency is in principle a positive thing. However, we do have concerns regarding this particular application in relation to Mental Health for the following reasons:

1. The particular focus on Mental Health Act Assessments could take away service provision from those most at need and also away from treatment to the wider assessment of the population.
2. Employment issues – Wales benefits from developing its own staff but also by having a flow of professionals particularly from England with specific reference to Medical Staffing and this has generally been a positive thing. However, should there become wide differentiations in the act this may become more difficult.
3. Code of Practice – we fully support the different Code of Practice for Wales and this is a vehicle to allow Wales to implement the act in relation to its development of Mental Health Services through the National Service Framework etc. and this is the way forward in this area.
4. Just to note that those with Mental Health problems are some of the most vulnerable in society and those who often suffer most from social isolation and there is a risk that this may lead to over assessment of those who do not need them and lead to further stigmatisation

Yours sincerely

**SIMON PYKE
GENERAL MANAGER
NEWT**

**SUE PARSONAGE
COMMISSIONING MGR
WREXHAM LHB**

**CHRIS PHILLIPS
COMMISSIONING MGR
FLINTSHIRE LHB**