

## What do we mean when we talk about an approved centre?

An approved centre is a hospital or in-patient service that is registered by the Mental Health Commission.

## What does the Inspector of Mental Health Services do?

The Inspector of Mental Health Services works with a number of assistant inspectors to visit every approved centre every year and make sure that mental health services are providing quality care and treatment in line with the law. The inspector publishes the findings every year in the Mental Health Commission's annual report.

**If you would like to find out more about the Mental Health Commission, visit our website [www.mhcirl.ie](http://www.mhcirl.ie) or contact us at the address below.**

### **Mental Health Commission**

St. Martin's House

Waterloo Road

Dublin 4.

Telephone: (01) 636 2400

Email: [info@mhcirl.ie](mailto:info@mhcirl.ie)



## Your Guide to the Mental Health Commission



## Your Guide to the Mental Health Commission

In this leaflet, we aim to answer your questions about the Mental Health Commission.

### Who are we?

The Mental Health Commission is an independent organisation which was set up in 2002. We were set up by law under the Mental Health Act 2001. When you use mental health services in Ireland, your rights and interests are protected by this Act.

### What is our role?

We have two important jobs:

- to make sure that mental health services maintain **high standards** and **good practices**; and
- to **protect the interests of people detained** in approved centres.

### What do we do?

The Mental Health Commission carries out a number of activities. These include:

- appointing members of Mental Health Tribunals;

- setting up a panel of consultant psychiatrists to carry out independent medical examinations of people involuntarily admitted to approved centres;
- appointing Mental Health Tribunals to review the admission of every involuntary patient;
- setting up a legal aid scheme for people involuntarily admitted to approved centres;
- making rules for using electro convulsive therapy (ECT), seclusion and mechanical restraint in approved centres;
- preparing codes of practice and guidelines for people working in mental health services;
- appointing an Inspector of Mental Health Services; and
- keeping a register of approved centres.

### What are Mental Health Tribunals?

Under the Act, everyone who is involuntarily admitted to an approved centre is reviewed by a Mental Health Tribunal. This is a group of three people who will look at a person's admission to decide if the law was followed. They make sure a person's rights are protected.