Department of Health announces further amendments to the Mental Health Bill

The continuing saga that is the Government’s proposals to amend the Mental Health Bill continues.

Last week the Government announced that there would be a further amendment to the Mental Heath Bill.

In summary the effect of these would be:

- Supervised community treatment could only be used to ensure that individuals receive treatment to prevent the risk of harm to their health and safety or to protect other people (rather than the much wider scope previously proposed).
- Statutory advocacy services will be introduced to support patients detained under the Mental Health Act.
- Victims of convicted mentally disordered offenders will have increased rights such as the right to know when the offender is to be discharged into the community and to make representations about discharge.
- Children and young people will receive treatment for mental disorder in units that are suitable for their age and needs.
- Extending safeguards for patients receiving ECT


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1 In addition there are one or two small technical amendments