



Our Ref: H0003-02.703

Date: 31 July 2003

Mr A McCann
Disability and Mental Health Unit
Room D1.4
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3SQ

Dear Mr McCann

May I on behalf of the four Health and Social Services Councils submit this joint response to the Consultation Paper: **DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL AND THE CONTINUING CARE IN THE COMMUNITY OF MENTALLY DISORDERED PEOPLE WHO COULD REPRESENT A RISK OF SERIOUS PHYSICAL HARM TO THEMSELVES OR OTHERS.**

The four Health and Social Services Councils namely: Northern, Southern Eastern and Western welcomed this opportunity to consider the draft guidance and to provide comment.

The Councils, acting as they do on behalf of the public and service users are committed to advancing policies and practices which will ensure the highest standards of mental health care and service provision.

It is our hope that the recommendations, principles and values which we have echoed throughout the response will be reflected in the final guidance due for issue in the Autumn.

Yours sincerely

Maggie Reilly (Ms)

Chief Officer (WHSSC)

(On behalf of the Joint NI Health and Social Services Councils)