



## Consultation – Proposed NHS Redress (Wales) Measure Committee

The following is Hafal's response to the consultation

### About Hafal

- Hafal is the principle organisation in Wales working with people recovering from severe mental illness, their families and carers. Every day our 130 staff and 150 volunteers provide help to over 700 people affected by severe mental illness across all the 22 counties of Wales.

Hafal is run by the people it supports: people with severe mental illness and their carers and families. The charity is founded on the belief that people who have direct experience of mental illness know best how services can be delivered. In practice this means that at every project our clients meet to make decisions about how the service will move forward and the charity itself is led by a board of elected Trustees, most of whom have either had severe mental illness themselves or are the carers of a person with a mental illness.

Hafal means "equal". Our mission is to empower people with severe mental illness and their families to enjoy equal access to health and social care, housing, income, education, and employment, and to achieve a better quality of life, fulfil their ambitions for recovery and fight discrimination.

### Context for Mental Health

- The Assembly Government is committed to developing mental health legislation and we would want to draw attention to the need to cross-reference this to the proposed Redress Measure.
- Specifically Hafal and others have already drawn attention to the need for inclusion in mental health legislation of a legal right to assessment and treatment as a balance to compulsion.
- This should be seen as distinct from the proposed Redress Measure but we suggest that the Measure could assist mental health patients as an important secondary means of ensuring timely and effective treatment in areas where new mental health legislation might not provide a legal right to treatment.

### The Proposed Measure

- We urge that there should be an absolute commitment that there will be no exclusions or qualification of the application of the Measure to mental health.

- This commitment should be incorporated in the Measure itself in order to preempt possible discrimination in the regulations when they are developed.
- The Measure itself should require the regulations to include specific actions to support those with capacity problems, including people with a mental illness, in making use of the regulations.

Contact

Hafal would be happy to provide further information and to give oral evidence if requested.

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Hafal