

People First (Scotland)

Our position on the final recommendations of the IRMHA



In December 2019, the Independent Review of Learning Disability and Autism in the Mental Health Act published its final recommendations. People First (Scotland) participated in and followed the review very closely. Overall we were pleased with most of the recommendations but there were some things that we were disappointed with.

What we agree with



The review recommended that learning disability should not be called a mental disorder under the Act, instead, it should be seen as a disability. This is really important and is the main reason People First has campaigned for the review to happen.



The review recommended that there should be a new law protecting the rights of people with learning disabilities and giving a right to independent living and support. This is something that we have campaigned for and we lodged a petition with Scottish Parliament in 2019 calling for this.



The review said that disabled people's organisations should always be involved in and be the leaders in the changes to law and policy and practice. We have been saying that for a long time. We are the experts in our own lives and we should have a much bigger say.

We did not agree with some of the recommendations



The recommendations still leave the door open for some of us to be detained and treated against our will even when we don't have a mental illness.



The recommendations still leave room for some of us not to be allowed a fair trial if we get arrested.



The recommendations still support the idea of some of us not being allowed to make our own decisions. They do not say very much about supported decision-making or assessing capacity.



Another review is now being carried out to look into the way mental health law is working in Scotland. The review will look at these issues and we hope to engage closely with the team.

