Rt. Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

The Rt. Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

13 November 2018

Dear Matt,

**Conditions in detention for people with learning disabilities or autism**

I am writing to ask for further details about the investigation that you have ordered the Care Quality Commission to conduct into the use of seclusion and segregation in Assessment and Treatment Units (ATUs) for people with learning disabilities or autism.

I am concerned by reports in the media over recent weeks about statistics that suggest widespread use of restraint and isolation, and of some particularly disturbing cases of apparent poor treatment. These matters fall within the JCHR’s remit to consider human rights issues in the UK because they appear to engage: the right to liberty and security; the right to a private and family life; and the prohibition of torture, and inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment. The Committee raised some of these issues with officials from your department at an evidence session on 17 October as part of our inquiry into the restraint and isolation of children in detention.

I very much welcome your announcement of the investigation, and I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with further information about the investigation, including:

- scope, including which issues and practices it will consider, and whether it will examine the issues relating to specific groups of people (e.g. children);
- powers, for example to access all of the information that is deemed necessary and to speak with all of the relevant people;
- governance, to ensure independence from the Department and the organisations involved in the issues; and
- timetable for reporting.

I would be grateful if you would reply to this letter by Friday 23rd November. I am copying this letter to Ian Trenholm, Chief Executive of the Care Quality Commission.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Rt. Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair