

 Health and Social
Care Board

 Public Health
Agency

*Director of Social Care and Children
Health and Social Care Board
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To: **Chief Executives of HSC Trusts**
Chief Executive, RQIA
Trust Directors of Mental Health
Trust Directors of Nursing
Trust Directors of Social Work

*Director of Nursing
Public Health Agency
12-22 Linenhall Street
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Copy to: Assistant Directors of Mental Health
Chief Inspector Deidre Bones PSNI

Tel: 028 95363429

Website: <http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>

18 August 2015

Dear Colleague

**REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS
ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE (AWOL) FROM ADULT MENTAL
HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY INPATIENT SETTINGS.**

Please find attached the Regional Guidelines for the Management of Patients Absent Without Leave (AWOL) from Adult Mental Health and Learning Disability Inpatient Settings that has been agreed with PSNI. The document outlines the procedure for liaising with police should a patient go missing; and provides a dedicated Email address for all referrals to PSNI.

The report outlining the pilot of the Anti-Absconding Intervention that informed development of the guidelines is also attached for information.

Please circulate these documents widely to relevant staff within your organisation and implement the procedure as soon as possible. An audit of AWOL incidence across all Trusts will be undertaken in 2016 to evaluating the implementation of the guidelines.



The guidelines are accessible from the Publications section of the HSCB and PHA websites (www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/, www.hscboard.hscni.net/publications/Guidelines/).

In the development of the guidelines, Equality and Human Rights implications were addressed and the outcomes are available in the screening documentation which is accessible on the PHA/HSCB websites <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2453.htm>

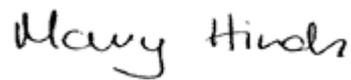
We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who assisted in the development of the guidelines.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Fionnuala McAndrew
Director of Social Care & Children
Health and Social Care Board



Mary Hinds
Director of Nursing and AHP
Public Health Agency

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