

**Explanatory Memorandum
Mental Health (Independent Mental Health Advocates) (Wales)
Regulations 2008**

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Mental Health, Vulnerable Groups and Offenders Branch of the Department for Health and Social Services and is laid before the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with Standing Order 24.1

- i. **Description** – These Regulations concern the setting up of independent mental health advocacy services and set out the arrangements for commissioning of the services and the requirements for standards in terms of appointment and approval of Independent Mental Health Advocates.
- ii. **Matters of special interest to the Subordinate Legislation Committee** – None
- iii. **Legislative Background** – The Welsh Ministers have the required powers under sections 130A of the Mental Health Act 1983 and by sections 12 and 204 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006. This Statutory Instrument follows the negative procedure.
- iv. **Purpose and intended effect of legislation** – These Regulations set out the matters that Local Health Boards must comply with in respect of the Independent Mental Health Advocate services.
- v. **Implementation** – It is intended these Regulations should come into force on 3 November 2008. Parallel legislation is also being made to come into force in England on the same day.
- vi. **Consultation** – These Regulations were subject to consultation between 5 November 2008 and 28 January 2008, as part of a wider consultation on six statutory instruments relating to the Mental Health Act 1983.

During this period workshops, study days and consultation events were held, and support was also given to Mind Cymru to run eleven workshops with service users and carers.

25 written responses to the consultation document were received, from a variety of stakeholders, including service user representative bodies, NHS organisations, local authorities and professional bodies.

- vii. **Regulatory Impact Assessment** – A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no significant impact on the private or voluntary sector is foreseen. Also a full Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Mental Health Act 2007 was prepared by the Department of Health (June 2007).