



TRIBUNALS  
JUDICIARY



HM Courts &  
Tribunals Service

FIRST TIER TRIBUNAL (HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE CHAMBER)  
MENTAL HEALTH

11 April 2018

Dear Colleague,

Thank-you for inviting the Mental Health Tribunal to hold its judicial hearings at your hospital. Where we can, the tribunal will accept the invitation of your Hospital Managers to hold hearings at your premises if that is where the patient is (or was) detained, rather than requiring the attendance of the parties and all the witnesses at Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) Hearing Centres - even though suitable hearing rooms and waiting facilities can generally be provided at HMCTS Hearing Centres nationwide.

Our willingness to send a judicial tribunal panel to you, rather than directing you all to come to us, arises because, where possible, we are content to minimise inconvenience to the patient and professionals, and to save the Hospital Managers from having to arrange secure transport in order to bring the patient along to a local HMCTS Hearing Centre.

However, in return, the tribunal expects high standards of safety and security to be adhered to; and all necessary facilities and amenities to be provided for our tribunal judicial office holders who attend at hospitals as invited guests of the Hospital Managers. This includes recognition of the need to park our cars, and to use our laptops or tablets.

**The attached document sets out the tribunal's minimum requirements for us to accept your invitation to hold our hearings at your hospital. Managers have previously been asked to 'sign up' to this. However, at the end of the day these are *our* minimum requirements for agreeing to come out to you and, unless we grant you a written exemption (usually coupled with a written agreement between us as to an alternative arrangement that achieves the same end result), we consider that these requirements must be adhered to, whether or not the Hospital Managers have signed up to them.**

If any Hospital Managers do not wish to invite the tribunal to sit at their hospital, or have any insurmountable difficulty with adherence to any of our minimum requirements and seek to offer an alternative arrangement to achieve the same outcome, please email us at: [MHincidentreporting@justice.gov.uk](mailto:MHincidentreporting@justice.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

**Judge Mark Hinchliffe**  
Deputy Chamber President  
First-tier Tribunal (HESC)

**Zoe Blake**  
Delivery Director  
HM Courts and Tribunals Service