

Public Petitions Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh.  
EH99 1SP

4<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Public Petitions Committee,                      **Petition PEO 1494**

I have direct experience of the negative consequences of detention under CTO including the destructive impact of psychiatric drugs, the abhorrent disregard for the patient's human rights or dignity and the lack of any credible objectivity or accountability on the part of the mental health tribunals.

My late mother's physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing were destroyed while she was detained against her and her family's wishes and given medication including depot injection which she had made clear from the outset that she did not want. One of the serious consequences of this continual increase in medications was that she was left crippled and never again walked independently. This was something that she loved to do. After she managed to escape from the hospital and walk to her eldest daughter's home in Perth this 82 year old was taken back to hospital in a police van. On returning to the ward her medication was changed to Clopixal and in just 12 days she fell and broke her hip. The cycle of bowel problems and urinary infections followed by dehydration progressively took its toll. She was medicated for 1 ½ years right up to days before her death.

Although the clinical team were adamant that the hospital was a safe place, this was far from the truth. Our late mother had been diagnosed with having a fear of male sexual interference. To subject her to male personal and intimate care is degrading and abusive. Our late mother was petrified and distressed when this happened.

With no effective safeguarding or independent scrutiny due to the lack of any robust objectivity from the MHT this abhorrent level of cruelty will continue. It is such a one sided process which included a persistent determination on behalf of the clinical teams to embellish reports with inaccuracies and untruths and included the vilification of the family. Their claim that our mother responded well to their treatment regime remains unchallenged because, at this time, there are neither effective means of scrutinising this nor stopping treatment that does more harm than good. Vulnerable people deserve, at the very least, the same rights as the accused in a criminal case.

Yours faithfully

Ms A Burns