



Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland

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# Members' Newsletter

## January 2026

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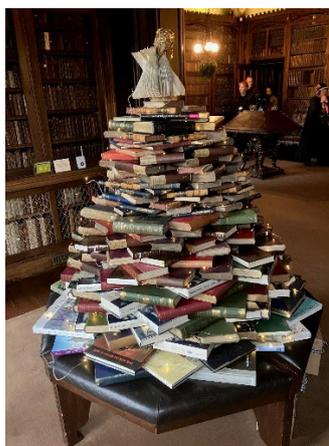
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## Message from Laura J Dunlop KC



Dear Members,

I hope it's reasonable in January to share a couple of photos taken by those in the President's Office when out and about at Christmas. One in Abbotsford and the other in Ullapool, both showing ingenuity and artistic flair. No real trees were harmed.

New Year, new website.

At least, that is our hope. There has been sustained work by the contractors, the internal project team and ourselves over recent months, and the new pages should be available for a small group of us to view in the next few weeks. That is exciting – though many members (myself included) have affection for the current site. It has served us well, but there is now no alternative to major change. We will keep you posted.

The new website is probably our most major goal for 2026. But the daily work of the Tribunal throws up challenges, sometimes unexpectedly, and there will no doubt be other more short-term goals in relation to those. Somewhere in between would be the introduction of recorded matters into compulsion orders, which is at present anticipated to commence before the end of the year. The Scottish Government has decided to extend recorded matters to compulsion orders with added restriction orders (CORO), as well as to hospital directions and transfer for treatment directions, so there will be some administrative changes required in that regard, and some familiarisation for members and sheriffs.

Looking backwards, this newsletter contains reflections on a number of events and activities in 2025. After the all-member conference in 2024, our training days resumed their usual pattern of a touring production of in-person days, this time with six stops (the highest since 2018) and two online events. I have reflected on how those went, and read all the feedback. An article about Training 2025 therefore appears on page 15. One of the most encouraging aspects of the day's programme was how well the exercise of looking at six of our own decisions was received. It seems that, for some members, this was the first time they had sampled the resource represented by our 'Decisions Table'. There are many interesting decisions in there, and the new website should offer improved routes to finding them. I remain very grateful to Scott and Jenna for setting up the current spreadsheet, which we have now been running since 2020 as a home-made addition to the current site.

Our efforts to make in-person hearings available continue. While I recognise that in-person hearings are not needed in every case, there remains a very high number of telephone hearings and, in some cases, these are happening when an in-person hearing would be preferable. The proportion of visual hearings (in-person and video) has remained over 50% for some months now. Almost all of these are in-person. Visual hearings show a patient attendance rate which fluctuates, but is consistently higher than attendance overall. In the week beginning 12 January, 81 visual hearings took place, which generated a patient attendance of 78%. There is no better means of participation than being there.

Having looked forward and back, let me move to the present, and commend Jane and Jenna and all contributors for a bumper newsletter to begin our 2026 series. At the request of members, we have started including information about those who have recently retired from the Tribunal (page 5) and there is a range of other pieces about activities and administration. This edition also has two features from members about charities with which they are involved, one about the creative arts work of Cosgrove Care and the other about the training of psychiatrists in Malawi. Each is fascinating – and illustrated too.

I hope you find much to interest you.

**Laura Dunlop KC  
President**

# News

## New reviewers

We are pleased to welcome three new recruits to the group of members who carry out regular reviews. They are legal members Emma Doyle and Laura McLaughlin, and medical member Becky Carleton.

To assist our new reviewers, and to refresh our existing ones, we held a training day in Hamilton on 9 January. Much of the programme was led by Malcolm Bruce and Evelyn McLaren, two of our most experienced reviewers. We looked at the function of reviews in the tribunal system and how it feels to be reviewed, as well as hearing perspectives from reviewers. We made good use of handouts previously drafted by Heather Baillie on aspects of the review process, reminded ourselves of the Guidance issued by the Judicial Office and considered 20 statements about reviews to see if we agreed with them.

I am grateful to all who attended what was an interesting and thought-provoking day, and especially to Malcolm and Evelyn for their contributions to leading the sessions. Reviews will be scheduled again for our next reporting year (from 1 April) and, if you have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact the President's Office.

**Laura Dunlop KC  
President**



## Retired Tribunal Members

The following members retired from the MHTS in 2025:

General: Margaret Mellay, Clare Young

Legal: Helen McGinty, John Thom, Ian Gall

Medical: Dr Sheila McLean, Dr Flora Sinclair, Dr Douglas Fowle, Dr Norman Clark

We wish them a long and happy retirement.

## Launch of MHTS Nurses' Forum

The inaugural meeting of the newly formed MHTS Nurses' Forum took place on the 29 October 2025.

This forum is specifically open to all General Members who have been appointed under the Scottish Statutory Instrument 375/2004 - being "a registered nurse with experience of providing services to persons having a mental disorder".

Like other professional groups, registered nurses are required to complete a revalidation process with our professional body, The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) every three years. Informal discussions among current members regarding the revalidation process have been ongoing for some time. These have centred on ways of achieving the criteria and the idea of providing a forum for these members was one of the suggestions discussed.

We also thought any such forum could possibly provide a space where ongoing learning and development could take place, as currently provided by other professional groups within the MHTS.

The requirements of the revalidation process for the NMC are very specific and the criteria include being able to evidence a certain number of hours' practice, training undertaken, group learning, objective setting and evidence of positive feedback from colleagues/employers. This evidence must be completed by individual registrants every three years. Evidence gathered must be independently confirmed before it can be submitted.

Only through this process are nurses able to remain on the nursing register and achieve their fitness to practice. Failure to revalidate every three years would mean the nurses' registration would lapse.

Achieving these criteria and providing evidence of such can, in some cases, provide some challenges to members who are no longer in full-time nursing practice or have perhaps reduced their working hours. A significant number of nursing tribunal members have retired from service or will be retired in the short to medium term.

With support from Laura Dunlop, President, and Fiona Queen, Executive Assistant to the President, the Forum has now been set up with the very first meeting having taken place in October 2025. The meeting was held online to help as many interested members to take part. Initial discussions centred on the ways a forum could support interested members not only in the revalidation process but also in ongoing learning, education and development.

We had initially contacted all general members from a Registered Nursing background and floated the idea of such a forum to test the appetite for such a group. We received a significant number of email replies that indicated a wish to take part. The positive response totalled just over 20 members, around half the total number currently in post. The initial meeting supported the formation of the Forum and we agreed the group would meet quarterly online. Members agreed that they would also bring relevant nursing research/practice papers to the Forum for discussion.

General Member, Kathleen Strachan, and I are currently managing the Forum and we wanted all members to know of this development. There may well be members we have inadvertently missed, so any members who would like to be included in this forum please do contact us for further information.

We would like to thank all of those members who attended our first meeting, also our thanks to Laura Dunlop for supporting this development and, of course, to Fiona Queen for helping us with all of the relevant contact details.

Our next meeting will be taking place in February 2026 and we will email you all with details and an agenda directly.

Lastly as this is the first newsletter of 2026, I would like to wish all members and staff of the Tribunal a very happy and healthy 2026.

**Stephen McGinness**  
General member



## Scheduling

In order to assist the team identifying available members for hearings, please would members ensure that Webroster is kept up to date with availability and any changes in conflicts of interest. **If your availability changes at any time, please add or remove available days from webroster as soon as possible.**

Please ensure when adding your availability onto Webroster, that you enter the shift as 'Day'. If this isn't selected, your availability will appear as a minute and the schedulers will be unable to allocate you dates. And please also remember that a day means full day availability – members are booked for a full day, not a half day.

The Scheduling team is grateful to all those who reply to the APBs (All Points Bulletins) for members to sit at short notice. Please note only those who are available to sit should reply to these APBs. While the team appreciates the consideration of those who reply to say they are unable to sit, this is unnecessary and adds to the already large volume of emails which the team receives.



## Judicial Hub - Reminder

This is a reminder that tribunal members should sign up to and access the Judicial Hub on a regular basis to remain abreast of the latest news and learning opportunities [Judicial Hub: Log in to the site](#).

It also contains a Judicial Health and Wellbeing Hub which includes details of support services and relevant guidance and policy.

Information on the Hub is updated frequently and can be accessed from any computer or profile. If you do not yet have log-in details, or if your email address changes, please contact the Hub team at [Judicialhub@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:Judicialhub@scotcourts.gov.uk)

# Winter Preparedness

With some of us already having experienced some severe winter weather, we thought it would be helpful to remind members of the position in relation to in-person hearings when there is a weather warning issued and also to provide links to some helpful resources.

Full details in respect of the **latest weather warnings** can be found [here](#). In summary, there are three types of weather warnings the Met Office will issue – “yellow”, “amber” or “red” warnings

- **Yellow** warnings are for lower level impacts with some disruption expected and you should **‘be aware’**.
- **Amber** means a possibility of travel delays, road and rail closures, power cuts and a potential risk to life and property – this is when you should **‘be prepared’**.
- **Red** is the highest alert level which means: There is a danger to life and a **‘call for action’** to be taken.

**No member is expected to travel to or through an area where a Met Office red warning is or will be in place at the time.**

So far as **amber warnings** are concerned (and levels below), the SCTS position is this:

“As courts and tribunals are essential public services, they continue to operate in areas where an amber weather warning is in force”.

If you have any concerns about travelling to an in-person venue when there is a weather warning in place, please contact an in-house convener for advice.

In order to be prepared for poor weather, you may wish to -

- Visit the Met Office’s [Weather Ready](#) campaign for seasonal safety tips.
- See [Ready Scotland](#) for advice on preparing for severe weather.
- Check [SEPA](#) for flood alerts, [ScotRail](#) for train updates, and [traffic.gov](#) for road conditions.

Links to other useful tips and advice are below:

[Staying safe in a storm](#)

[Staying safe in heavy rain](#)

[Staying safe in ice](#)

[Staying safe in snow](#)

[Driving in severe weather](#)

[Driving safely in winter weather](#)

[Winter proofing your bike](#)

# Finance update

## Payroll Schedule - 2025/26 (MEMBERS)

The finance team would like to highlight the payroll schedule to members (below). The most common queries Finance receives from tribunal members involve fees or claims that are outside of the relevant payroll period.

Using January 2026 as an example: The claim cut-off is 07 Jan 2026, so any fees earned or claimed on or before 07 Jan 2026 will be paid in the January payroll, any fees earned or claimed from 08 Jan (to 05 Feb) will be paid in the February payroll.

For expense claims the pertinent date is the date of claim. So, if a Tribunal took place on 05 Jan 2026, but the expense claim was not entered on to Webroster until 08 Jan 2026, then the expenses would not be paid until February.

Payroll Month	Claim Cut-off	Pay Date
Jan-26	07/01/2026	30/01/2026
Feb-26	05/02/2026	27/02/2026
Mar-26	05/03/2026	31/03/2026

Claim cut-off dates are subject to change. You will be notified of any changes. Cut off dates for 2026/2027 will be available in March 2026.

## Cancellation Fee Claims

The Scottish Government has put in place a standardised Cancellation clause for all members of Scottish Tribunals which came into force on 01 December 2025.

The new policy states that “Claims cannot be made until the date of the booked or scheduled tribunal business has passed.” We would be grateful if members could please wait until the day after the cancelled event was due to take place before submitting claims to Finance as there is an increased administrative burden in dealing with premature claims.

Finance would also like to remind members that they must submit a claim form to [webrosterexpenses@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:webrosterexpenses@scotcourts.gov.uk) in all cancellation circumstances, including when a hearing is cancelled on the day of the hearing. Cancellation fees cannot be paid automatically, and Cancellation Timesheets created by members directly on Webroster cannot be processed.

## Completing Expenses Timesheets on Webroster

Finance would also like to suggest that when using Webroster to claim expenses, the Product selected by the member is key – an “Expenses” product must be selected.

Webroster may automatically revert the Product selection if the Timesheet is completed out of order. Members may then face being “locked out” of the timesheet before they can enter their claims. In order to avoid this, members should complete the timesheet sequentially from top to bottom.



## MHTS Members' Association

Currently there is NO COST to becoming a member of MHTSMA. All it takes is an email.

The Committee met in September and again in November. Discussion at both meetings focussed on issues relating to terms and conditions.

MHTSMA wrote to the Justice Directorate, Tribunals and Judicial Policy Unit regarding the training fee. We further wrote expressing concerns regarding the short timescale of members being notified of their re-appointment and received an explanation and an assurance that greater notice would be provided going forward.

Members of the MHTSMA Committee (Peter and Ruth) met ‘virtually’ with Tribunals and Judicial Policy Unit in relation to the change to members terms and conditions (changes to cancellation fee). These changes were scheduled for introduction at only a week’s notice, but our terms and conditions require a month’s notice. After our meeting, the proposed changes were amended and then brought in with appropriate notice.

We will keep MHTSMA members updated by email with any further developments with our terms and conditions.

MHTSMA AGM was held on 18th November. Thanks to all members who attended. The office bearers remain as Ruth Buchanan chair, Peter Bennie secretary and Caroline Ritchie treasurer. The post of vice chair is vacant. Additional committee members are Brian Dewar, Mary Jo Furlong, Joyce Mouriki, Rob Gray, Serena Sutherland, Perminder Sihra and Morag Leck.

MHTSMA committee wish to express our sadness on hearing of Mark Dennis’s death. Mark agreed to become a committee member at the AGM having been co-opted in 2023. We were incredibly fortunate to benefit from his expertise and his inimitable style and good humour.

MHTSMA are considering arranging a social event in 2026 and members will receive an email regarding this so we can gauge the level of interest.

I would also encourage members to contact Peter (or any member of the committee) if there are items they would wish MHTSMA to consider.

If any member is interested in joining MHTSMA, please can you contact Peter Bennie (secretary).

**Ruth Buchanan**  
**General member and chair of MHTS Members' Association**

# Spirit of Christmas appeal in aid of Barnardos

In December, Barnardo's Lanarkshire collected an incredible total of over 150 gifts, along with an astounding £400 in vouchers (and a few extra surprises too!) from Bothwell House in Hamilton—requiring two minibus trips to get them back to their Office! These generous donations were made by SCTS Tribunals administration and judicial colleagues across the Hamilton, Glasgow, and Edinburgh tribunal centres.

The range of gifts was truly amazing and included toys, footballs and goals, warm clothing and blankets, vouchers, headphones and speakers, sweets, toiletries, cosmetics, and even a tablet computer!

A huge thank you to everyone across all three tribunal centres who bought a gift for a child or contributed through PayPal. Your generosity made a real difference.

The staff at Barnardo's said they were amazed, as they are every year, by the sheer volume of donations, and they assured us that the kids absolutely love receiving them. They began distributing everything right away to those who need it most, just in time for Christmas Day.

Thank you once again to everyone who helped make this year's appeal such a success. This was our 7<sup>th</sup> year of collecting, and it still warms the heart when you see the kindness of people donating to the cause.

Here are a few pictures of all the gifts but this really does not do them justice.



# Articles

## How many Psychiatrists does it take to treat a country?

The answer in Malawi is – more than one.

I am honoured to be a Trustee of the Scotland Malawi Mental Health Education Project (SMMHEP) along with a psychiatrist in Malawi, a psychologist based in Malawi, our Treasurer and 10 other psychiatrists principally based in Scotland. Dr Maddy Osborn, also an MHTS medical member, is one of the Trustees.

The SMMHEP was established in 2006 – following a chance meeting the year before between a Malawian psychiatrist and two Scottish colleagues. In a bar – where some of the best plans are developed! Dr Felix Kauye was the Chief Government Psychiatrist in Malawi – with a population of 13 million at the time – he was trained in South Africa and was, in fact, the only psychiatrist. Malawi is a land locked country in the centre of Africa and consistently ranks among the world's poorest countries. It has always had strong links with Scotland. Dr Kauye was working extremely hard to impassion medical students about the subject of mental health but - understandably - this was very difficult with the other commitments he had. So, the enthusiastic psychiatrists he spoke to that fateful night in the bar fledged a plan to help teach the undergraduate students — and SMMHEP was born.



(Typical street scene in Malawi.)

From the start those involved with the charity have always sought guidance from Malawians about the best way to do things. For SMMHEP it was pioneering work under testing circumstances, and we have often had to be very inventive about how we delivered teaching. Under the project, over 100 volunteer psychiatrists, the majority of whom have been senior trainees and consultants working within the NHS, have made teaching visits to Malawi. Despite the challenges we have now taught over 1,000 medical students graduating from the Medical School in Blantyre. These students are bright and as keen to learn as Scottish undergraduates. Indeed, when I have been teaching them, I often look out over the class and muse that they are so

similar to my year at medical school – the keen ones, the inquisitive ones, the sleepy ones – the span of continents and decades makes little difference. And the joy in seeing their attitude about psychiatry change in a positive way and watching them become more comfortable speaking to those affected by major mental illness, is one of the reasons I have remained committed to the charity for almost 18 years.

The majority of our funding has come from the Scottish Government who have been very supportive. As with many charities, however we struggle constantly to have enough money to cover costs. This is in spite of being very cheap to run, with no UK based administrative staff or premises.

Having initially started with undergraduate teaching we realised that specialist training was going to be vital to increasing the number of consultants in Malawi. A training programme did not exist. So SMMHEP helped establish postgraduate psychiatry training at the University in collaboration with University of Cape Town, with additional expertise from University of Edinburgh. Malawi's first three locally trained psychiatrists qualified in 2017. Since then, another two Malawian psychiatrists have graduated and there are another seven in training through partnership working with other NGOs.

Malawi now has a population in excess of 22 million and remains extremely impoverished as a nation. However, it is known as the “warm heart of Africa” for very good reason. Malawian people are incredibly resilient and cheerful despite all the challenges they face. The staff at Zomba Mental Hospital – the only government psychiatric hospital in the country – are dedicated to the treatment of the mentally unwell. A recent initiative by SMMHEP has been risk management training for staff in the hospital – and their enthusiasm to learn has been impressive. SMMHEP are very grateful to the staff from the Blair Unit, Royal Cornhill Hospital, Aberdeen for their assistance with this. Our joint working with NHS Scotland and services in Malawi continues to reap huge benefits for both services – learning definitely is a two-way street.



(Nurses from Royal Cornhill Hospital on recent visit to Zomba)

If you would like to know more about our charity or are interested in volunteering to work with us please visit [www.smmhep.org.uk](http://www.smmhep.org.uk) or get in touch with me or Maddy – I never tire of talking about beautiful Malawi, its wonderful wildlife - and our charity.



(Indeed, you do get very close to amazing wildlife in Malawi)

So, the answer to “how many Psychiatrists does it take to treat a country?” is – we don’t know yet but what we do know is that things are improving for those with mental health problems in Malawi. By no means is “the job done” – but we have started.

**Carol Robertson**  
**Medical member**

## Reflections on Training 2025

Training 2025 saw us hold six in-person events and two online. The attendance was 240 at the in-person events and 65 at the online events.

The day was split into 1) a morning focused on the legal and practical issues arising under less familiar sections of the Act, and on discussion around the immediate effect of the decisions we reach; and 2) an afternoon workshop, facilitated by an external presenter, on either communication or interpersonal conflict during hearings.

A total of 233 feedback forms were received, with the return much better from in-person events than online (since training with the two options began in 2021, this has always been true). The scoring was out of five, and the average scores for the different aspects were:

Morning part 1: 4.43

Morning part 2: 4.38

Communications workshop: 4.26

Conflict workshop: 3.53

The choice of subject for the morning workshops reflected comments made by members from time to time, but especially an email in 2024 which asked:

*I wondered if next year a talk could be given on what we have to do with cases involving "a wide discretion" as there are not only s255 cases but other types of case too...I seem to remember a Welsh case and removal back there and in previous years I have come across it in other types of cases where we are not looking at the 5 criteria of an order but some other type of case whose criteria were unspecified in the Act.*

To the author: I hope you remember sending it. You said, we did.

The afternoon workshops were both on topics that are germane to what we do (and included role play in one, requested on forms in previous years).

I have read all the forms for 2025. What follows is some of my feedback on that feedback.

Firstly, I am glad that the use of FFRs from our Decisions Table was so well received. My perception is that it was more enjoyable than training by reference to cases where mistakes have been made, and that is an interesting lesson for us. Perhaps it's relevant to some of the criticism of the role play, which said that no hearing would be like that. Fair comment, but it was a blend of points that have all been made by a hearing participant at some stage.

Secondly, everyone (who filled out a form) liked some aspect of the day. And every element of the day was somebody's favourite part (a particular session, the location, the food, the role play). As in other years, the most common answer to what people liked best is 'meeting up with other members'. The workshops at the online training were well-received. People liked that they were more interactive than in previous years. And (my own observation) the chat quite naturally became a rich source of contributions.

There were (of course) negative comments too, some of them helpful. Some members would have liked more time for discussion in the first session. Some would like to move tables for the afternoon workshop. Some found the redactions on the FFRs interfered with comprehension. Acoustics and slide-content featured. And we

noted some very specific criticisms of the two guest presenters. I am not going to include those below, but what I am going to do is quote some comments that I found particularly eye-catching or encouraging.

**Morning part 1:**

- *Good to see some process issues fully examined – please let us have more of this!*
- *This was far more helpful than I expected.*
- *Good to see tribunal dealing with complex issues in an informed and sensitive manner.*
- *Refreshing, thought provoking, very interesting to read and discuss the cases.*

**Morning part 2:**

- *These 2 cases did not really have unexpected outcomes – the kind of outcome you outlined are common in clinical practice often after the tribunal rather than actually in the hearings.*

**Afternoon:**

- *Fabulous role play.*
- *Useful presentation of people's irritations at tribunals.*
- *Very relevant points in managing/de-escalation and tension.*
- *Stimulating, from a presenter with passion and enthusiasm as well as extremely knowledgeable about this specialist area (Communication workshop).*
- *Fantastic, thoroughly prepared and pitched for us as tribunal members. Great speaker (communication workshop).*
- *Must be difficult to get topics/speakers for afternoon sessions to suit all disciplines, I empathize.*

**What did you like best?**

- *Using the different groups to formally feedback for each section. Removed that 'death by feedback' feeling.*
- *Involvement of caseworkers and clerk.*

**Overall:**

- *A brilliant effort at delivering an online whole day course.*
- *One of the best training days I have attended.*
- *I found that my concentration and attention were more focused on the WebEx training than face to face training which surprised me.*

**Laura Dunlop KC  
President**

## **Court of Appeal clarifies judicial duties - D [2025] EWCA Civ 1362**

A recent Court of Appeal case concerning the removal of a child stressed the need for transparent judicial decision making when the State intervenes in someone's life and made clear that judges must give clear, reasoned findings on threshold criteria, even where proceedings are uncontested or parties are absent.

The child became the subject of care proceedings shortly after birth. The father filed a partial response disputing some of the allegations and the mother did not respond. Neither were present at a subsequent hearing.

The first instance judge's decision was criticised on the basis that no findings of fact were made, and there was no explanation as to how the evidence satisfied the statutory test. The two and a half page judgement merely stated that the judge was satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the threshold is met.

The Court of Appeal held that the judgement failed to meet the fundamental jurisdictional requirements of proof under the relevant legislation. It noted that the danger of the judge's approach is that it gives the appearance of a quasi-administrative act, in which the judge nods through the local authority's proposals. Even in brief judgements, the judge must identify the facts found and explain how those facts satisfy the criteria. Transparency and fairness require that parties, including the subject of the proceedings, understand the basis upon which such far-reaching decisions are made.

**Kirsty Watson  
Legal Secretary**

## Art for Art's Sake

One of my non-tribunal roles is chairing Cosgrove Care, a charity specialising in supporting people with learning disability, autism and similar conditions. As well as providing supported accommodation and outreach services to people in their own homes, we invest a lot in creative arts. We aim to help our supported people flourish by developing their creative talents. Under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities, they have the right to do so, not just for their own benefit, but for the enrichment of society (article 30). We were able to do this because of donations and grants from the National Lottery and Creative Scotland.

We have put on several drama performances and arranged art exhibitions. We filmed a performance of Cinderella with a cast of people with disabilities and had a premier showing at the Redhurst Hotel in Glasgow. Red carpet, me in dickie bow as compere, and the cast in costume. What a night. Since then, our talented disabled actors also put on performances of Harry Potter, Beauty and the Beast and Alice in Wonderland.

As with the drama performances, our art exhibitions have been on public display. We have arranged many of these and displayed them at local venues open to the general public. I enclose a few examples from a recent exhibition on the theme of nature. While we employed an arts facilitator to help with the project, all the ideas came from our supported people themselves, and the facilitator helped them find the right medium to express themselves.



The painting of koi carp was done by Stuart. He has learning disability and autism. He became fascinated with the idea of using acrylic paint and a cocktail stick to produce intricate designs. This completely knocked me out so much, I bought the original the vast majority of the purchase going to the artist himself.



There were some lovely flower paintings, and I have enclosed a photo I took of some of them. The large painting of sunflowers was done by Fraser, who is severely autistic and has no meaningful verbal communication. We opened the exhibition at Eastwood Theatre with the local council Provost giving a speech and with that painting prominent. I met Fraser's parents who were so proud that their son's artwork was on display.

I have two reasons for sharing this with you. Firstly, we focus at tribunals on what people with illness and disability cannot do. It is important for all of us to remember what they can achieve with a bit of support. Secondly, I wanted to share that the fun of the Cinderella film premier and, most of all, the look on the faces of Fraser's parents at the art exhibition are personal memories that I will always cherish.

**Donald Lyons**  
**Medical member**

# Useful Information

## MHTS

- MHTS News  
[MHTS - News \(mhtscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.mhtscotland.gov.uk/news)
- MHTS Guidance on the Provision of documents in Tribunal applications (This guidance sets out the documents which will form the Tribunal papers in each type of application, review, etc, under the relevant sections of the 2003 Act. It was updated again in September 2025)  
[MHTS - Guidance \(mhtscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.mhtscotland.gov.uk/guidance)
- MHTS Caselaw and Decisions  
(scroll to the bottom of the page to find MHTS decisions table. The search function is helpful to find decisions under specific sections of the Act)  
[https://www.mhtscotland.gov.uk/mhts/Legislation\\_and\\_Caselaw/Legislation\\_and\\_Caselaw](https://www.mhtscotland.gov.uk/mhts/Legislation_and_Caselaw/Legislation_and_Caselaw)

## MWC Publications

- [Consent to treatment](#) Good practice guide, October 2025  
This includes a section on Advance Statements.
- [Right to treat](#) Delivering physical healthcare to people who lack capacity and refuse or resist treatment; Good practice guide October 2025
- [Medical treatment under Part 16 of the Mental Health \(Care and Treatment\) \(Scotland\) Act](#); Good practice guide, October 2025
- [MHA MonitoringReport 2024-25.pdf](#) Annual statistical report, November 2025
- [Children and young people monitoring report 2024-25](#) Admissions of young people under the age of 18 to non-specialist wards in Scotland; December 2025
- [Patients' rights to apply to the Tribunal following variation or extension of a Compulsory Treatment Order \(CTO\)](#); Advice note, January 2026

## Other

- [scottish-tribunals-annual-report-2024-25.pdf](#) Scottish Tribunals Annual Report (for the devolved tribunals)
- [STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES OF JUDICIAL ETHICS \(judiciary.scot\)](#)

**\*Please note that links to informative publications are included for information only. Any views expressed in these publications are those of the author(s) and not those of the MHTS.**

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## Newsletter Contributions

The Tribunal welcomes contributions to the Newsletter from all members.

Members who wish to contribute to the Newsletter should contact Jenna Swan at [MHTSPresidentsOffice@scotcourtribunals.gov.uk](mailto:MHTSPresidentsOffice@scotcourtribunals.gov.uk)

The following timescales will apply for contributions\*:

**January edition:** contributions by the end of November

**May edition:** contributions by the end of March

**September edition:** contributions by the end of July

**\*Contributions may require to be edited**