

Foreword

This special issue of the Journal of Mental Health Law has been prompted by the recent publication of the Government's Green Paper *Review of the Mental Health Act 1983: Proposals for Reform*. The Green Paper aims to "modernise the legal framework within which mental health care is delivered" by proposing a number of reforms to the current regime established under the Mental Health Act 1983.

We have aimed in this edition to highlight some of the key issues arising from both the Green Paper and the Report submitted to the Department of Health by the Scoping Study Review Team, in July 1999.

In light of the pressing need to publish relevant material within the Green Paper's consultation period and to debate some of the more important issues surrounding the proposals for reform, we have not adopted the Journal's usual format of case and book reviews on this occasion. Reports of some of the more important cases of 1999 and early 2000 will appear in the next issue together with reviews of recently published mental health law texts.

My sincere thanks go to the contributors who have worked over Christmas and the New Year period to ensure that this edition materialised within the 4-month consultation period.

Charlotte Emmett

Editor, Journal of Mental Health Law