



INforMHAA: Interpreter-mediated Mental Health Act Assessments

Best practices for Approved Mental Health Professionals and Interpreters working together

RESOURCE R6: Further reading

Introduction

To complement our guidance and expand your understanding of the topics covered, this curated list of references serves as a resource to help guide your supplementary reading. It also provides references to the documents internally cited in our guidance. The aim of this annotated reading list is to offer advice to individuals in the field, and organisations engaged in the commissioning of interpreting services, across a spectrum of contexts that may benefit from extrapolating learning about interpreted Mental Health Act (1983) assessments (MHAAs). Whether you are based in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, this collection of references has been designed to enhance your knowledge base.

Each reference within this list signposts to an open-source downloadable document and can be used as a standalone document, providing you with practical, actionable guidance for your unique context. To provide clarity and accessibility, this list is organised into different thematic areas so that individuals and organisations can locate the references that best align with their interests and needs.

MHAA concepts explained

In this section, there is a compilation of resources that are specifically geared toward explaining complex concepts related to MHAAs in an easy-to-understand, “easy read” format.

- **MIND’s Easy Read Resources on the Mental Health Act:** MIND is a charity in the UK, dedicated to promoting better mental health by raising awareness. On MIND’s website, you can find a dedicated section or resources that explain MHAAs in plain language including patient rights. Here is a selection:
 - o [Nearest Relative – what powers and rights they have](#)
 - o [Sectioning – rights that you have if you are sectioned under the MHA \(1983\)](#)
The most relevant parts of this guidance are Sections 2,3,4 and 7. Also Section 136 should involve an AMHP (and hence may require interpreters).
- **MHA terminology in different languages** in the resource library of the NHS Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust. This website offers leaflets for information for people who may be undergoing a MHAA, and for their families or other interested parties. They provide leaflets in different languages, here is a selection:
 - o [Section 2 – Admission to hospital for assessment – in multiple languages](#)
 - o [Section 3 – Admission to hospital for treatment – in multiple languages](#)

- o [Section 4 – Detention in hospital for assessment in an emergency \(in English only\)](#)
- o [Section 7 – Guardianship – in multiple languages](#)
- o [Section 136 – Assessment of mental health via a police contact](#) (in English only)
- **MHA terminology and explanations in British Sign Language**

[The University of Swansea School of Social Care has created a brief video](#) on introduction to mental health awareness in BSL, which includes an explanation of Section 3

The organisation [Sign Health has a BSL health video library](#), which explain various health conditions, some of which related to mental health

Legislation and Statutory Guidance

In this part we have gathered a toolbox of resources that help unpack the legal side of interpreted MHA assessments. Think of it as your guide to understanding the rules and regulations that govern these assessments mostly from the mental health legislation but also the interpreter provision angle.

These relate to the duties and responsibilities attendant on public services in light of the legal status of British Sign Language and of Welsh.

- [British Sign Language \(England\) Act 2022](#)
- [British Sign Language \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)
- The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 – this states that the Welsh language has equal legal status with English and must not be treated less favourably. A strategic framework in Wales [More than just words \(gov.wales\)](#) published in 2016 provides recognition that use of Welsh language is not just a matter of choice but of need. It proposes the 'Active offer' whereby a service is provided in Welsh without having to ask for it.
- Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) (2018). [Modernising the Mental Health Act – final report from the independent review. GOV.UK](#)

[Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983](#)

this report contains the main conclusions from a review of the current Mental Health Act with recommendations for its reform. To date no reforms have taken place although a draft bill has been passing through Parliament. Suggested reform of the current MHA1983 began in 2017 culminating in a draft mental health bill in June 2022. The pre-legislative Joint Consultative Committee reported in January 2023 and a Government response is awaited.

- [Draft Mental Health Bill 2022](#)
- [Joint Select Parliamentary Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#) – this is the unifying equalities legislation in the UK and professional services must comply with it in the fulfilling of their duties and responsibilities including those under the Mental Health Act

Human rights legislation also guides the fulfilment of duties and responsibilities under the Mental Health Act.

- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [European Convention on Human Rights](#)

[The United Nations Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities \(UNCPRD\)](#) – this Convention aims to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities.

Statutory guidance is available to AMHPs and other professionals with powers, responsibilities and duties under the Mental Health Act. It includes information about the provision of interpreting and cultural advocacy.

- [Mental Health Act \(1983\) - Code of Practice](#)
- [Mental Health Act \(1983\) Code of Practice for Wales \(revised 2016\)](#)
- A separate Code of Practice for Wales was published in [2016 Mental Health Act 1983 – Code of Practice \(gov.wales\)](#). Paragraphs 1.17, 4.7 to 4.10 and 14.3, 14.107 to 14.109 concern use of interpreters.

Data and statistics

In this part there is a set of data-driven resources that encompass different aspects directly or indirectly linked to interpreter-mediated MHA assessments including the composition of the AMHP workforce, statistics on outcomes and detentions under the Mental health Act according to some protected characteristics (but not by language) as well as general statistics on migration and language use.

- [Approved Mental Health Professional \(AMHP\) workforce](#) produced annually by Skills for Care and Department of Health and Social Care

Data on outcomes and detentions include:

- [Mental Health Act Statistics, Annual Figures, 2021-22](#)
- [NHS Digital Mental Health Act Statistics, Annual Figures - 2022-23](#)

Migration data includes:

- [Migration Observatory at Oxford University. \(2024\). English language use and proficiency of migrants in the UK](#)
- Immigration statistics – input immigration statistics in the search box – UK government- GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Net migration to the UK, latest statistics by the [Migration Observatory](#)

Data on language use in the UK includes:

- [Office of National Statistics \(ONS\) \(2022\) Language, England and Wales: Census 2021](#). Statistical bulletin available in ONS website.

Interpreting organisations and Codes of Conduct

In this part we provide links to several interpreting organisations in the UK, the directories to find interpreters linked to such organisations, and codes of conduct that outline the ethical frameworks that interpreters adhere to.

- [National Register for Communication Professionals working with Deaf & Deafblind People – Code of conduct](#)
- [National Register of Public Service Interpreters \(NRPSI\) - Code of Conduct](#)
- [UK Chartered Institute of Linguists \(CioL\) directory 'Find-a-Linguist'](#)
- [UK Institute of Translation & Interpreting \(ITI\) directory 'Find a Professional'](#)

Other practical resources

In this part you can find links to websites that offer practical aspects about working with interpreters that can be helpful to MHA assessments or similar contexts.

- [Assessing the need for an interpreter by Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health](#)
- [Debriefing with an interpreter – by Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health](#)
- [Good practice guide to interpreting in multiple languages produced by Migrants Organise](#)
- [Guide for Clinicians Working with Interpreters in Healthcare Settings developed by the Migrant and Refugee Health Partnership in Australia](#)
- [Interpreters: an introduction – by Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health](#)
- [Language Identification Chart produced by National Register of Public Service Interpreters](#)
- [Language Identification Chart produced by Refugee Council](#)
- [NHS Inform resources in other languages](#)

Open-source academic references

In this part, you will find a range of open-source academic references, spanning various dimensions of interpreter-mediated MHA assessments and offering scholarly perspectives

- Abbott, S (2022) [**A Study Exploring How Social Work AMHPs Experience Assessment under Mental Health Law: Implications for Human Rights-Oriented Social Work Practice**](#), The British Journal of Social Work, Volume 52, Issue 3 Pages 1362–1379
- Tipton, R. (2016). [**Perceptions of the 'Occupational Other': Interpreters, Social Workers and Intercultures**](#). The British Journal of Social Work, 46(2), 463–479
- Tribe, R., & Lane, P. (2009). [**Working with interpreters across language and culture in mental health**](#). Journal of Mental Health, 18(3), 233–241
- Tribe, R. and Thompson, K. (2022). [**Working with interpreters in mental health**](#). International Review of Psychiatry
- Young, A., et al., (2023). [**Mental health professionals' \(AMHPs\) perspectives on interpreter-mediated mental health act assessments**](#). Journal of Social Work, 0(0)

INforMHAA – further resources

- Project website
sites.manchester.ac.uk/informhaa
- Other relevant guidance documents are available through the INforMHAA website:
sites.manchester.ac.uk/informhaa/resources-support

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Document Description

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If you are viewing a printed version of this Resource, there is a digital version of the full Guidance available by scanning the QR code.



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