Dear **xxxx**,

I am writing with regard to the Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Act 2018, which came into effect from 31 March 2022, and how we can work together to help achieve its aim of reducing the use of force in mental healthcare settings.

As you will be aware, the statutory guidance accompanying the Act places a strong emphasis on co-production and consultation “with people with personal experience of mental health services, along with their families and carers”, particularly with regard to developing the policy on the use of force, under section 3 of the Act, and information for patients, under section 4 of the Act.

The guidance also suggests that healthcare providers include details of how patients, their families, carers, and independent advocates will be involved in care planning, which sets out the preventative strategies to the use of force, and how they can raise concerns about the use of force, including how they will be involved in post incident reviews following the use of force. There is also a reference to the potential role independent advocates can play in assisting patients to understand their rights in relation to the use of force.

As the provider of statutory Independent Mental Health Advocacy services in **xxxx**, we are keen to work with you on implementation of this important new piece of legislation. We would be very grateful if you could inform us of your implementation plans, including any opportunities around co-production and consultation, and how we can contribute.

We look forward to hearing from you and to future collaboration on achieving the aim of reducing the use of force in mental healthcare settings.

Yours sincerely,