



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Community Care Directorate
39 Victoria Street
LONDON

Tel [REDACTED]

Joe Rafferty
Chief Executive
Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust
V7 Building
Kings Business Park
Prescot
Liverpool
L34 1PJ

28 March 2019

By Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Joe,

**APPROVAL OF MERSEY CARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST AS A PROVIDER OF
HIGH SECURITY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES AT ASHWORTH HOSPITAL**

You will be aware that the Health and Social Care Act 2012 made an amendment to the National Health Service Act 2006 (the Act 2006) under which the Secretary of State grants approvals for providers of high security psychiatric services.

Under section 4 of the 2006 Act, high security psychiatric services may be provided only at hospital premises at which such services, and no others, are provided, and only by a person who has been approved by the Secretary of State for that purpose.

Following the assessment of suitability to provide high security psychiatric services, undertaken by NHS England on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care, I can confirm that the decision to support the Trust's re-approval was given by NHS England's Specialised Commissioning Oversight Group, the Care Quality Commission and NHS Improvement.

On that basis, I am pleased to inform you that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care approves Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust as a provider of high security psychiatric services at Ashworth Hospital for the purposes of section 4(3) of the 2006 Act.

The authorised period is five years and approval will end on 30 March 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Frances Oram and Sophie Langdale
Directors for Mental Health, Dementia & Disabilities