



Department for  
Constitutional Affairs  
Justice, rights and democracy

**Mental Capacity Implementation  
Programme**

Steel House  
5.04  
11 Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9LH

T 0207 2100039  
F 0207 2100007  
E [makingdecisions@dca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:makingdecisions@dca.gsi.gov.uk)  
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**Mental Capacity Act 2005 - introduction timetable**

I am writing to inform of the timetable for the introduction of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 which was announced in Parliament on the 18 December 2006.

The Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy service (IMCAs) will be available in England from 1 April 2007 together with some directly supporting parts of the Act related to the service. In Wales, the Welsh Assembly's Minister for Health & Social Services will shortly be announcing the commencement date for IMCAs and this will be communicated to Welsh stakeholders. The Code of Practice and criminal offence of ill treatment and wilful neglect will also be introduced in England and Wales from April.

All other elements of the legislation including the new Court of Protection, Public Guardian and Office of the Public Guardian will become operational from 1 October 2007. This timetable is to allow sufficient time for the new Court to be fully developed, and to provide adequate time for the training of the many professionals affected by the Act.

We continue to believe that the Act is something to be proud of, and the Government remains fully committed to the benefits it brings in terms of its principles, procedures and safeguards.

We appreciate the support you have given the Act and its implementation.

Yours sincerely

Steve Verdon

Change Programme Manager



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