



# RTPI

mediation of space · making of place

Royal Town Planning Institute  
41 Botolph Lane  
London EC3R 8DL  
Tel +44(0)20 7929 9494  
Fax +44(0)20 7929 9490

Email [online@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:online@rtpi.org.uk)  
Website: [www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk)

Registered Charity Numbers  
England 262865  
Scotland SC 037841

Patron HRH The Prince of Wales KG KT PC GCB

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Secure Services Policy Team  
Mental Health Programme  
Area 225, Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Rd  
London SE1 8UG

Email response sent to: [secureservices.consultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:secureservices.consultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam,

## RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION PAPER: Environmental design principles for adult medium secure units

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation. The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is a membership organisation representing over 22,000 spatial planners. It exists to advance the science and art of town planning for the benefit of the public.

In response to the consultation *Environmental design principles for adult medium secure units*, the RTPI would like to submit a number of general recommendations pertinent to planning. The following points should be considered when siting and designing health facilities which include coordination with other community facilities to maximise the integration of uses:

- The setting of the facility should be a factor in its design
- Facilities should be located in a place readily accessible by public transport
- Facilities should be constructed with local materials wherever possible
- Facilities should incorporate the principles of sustainable development
- We believe that minimising energy use should be a design requirement

These standards serve a number of purposes including better use of existing transport infrastructure ensuring access to the facility for the whole community and contributing to the mitigation and adaptation of climate change.

As an additional point, The RTPI suggests that stakeholders in the design process should include representatives of visitors, relatives, family and friends, advisers.

If you require any further assistance, please contact Nicola Gough, Network Manager on 0207 929 9494 or email [network.manager@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:network.manager@rtpi.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,

Matt Thomson  
Head of Policy & Practice