



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 4887 Email petitionscommittee@parliament.uk
Website www.parliament.uk/petitions-committee

Mike Freer MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Equalities)
Government Equalities Office

17 May 2022

Dear Minister,

The Petitions Committee has today agreed to schedule a debate on [e-petition 613556](#), “Ensure trans people are fully protected under any conversion therapy ban”, to take place on Monday 20 June. Elliot Colburn MP will open the debate on behalf of the Committee. We are writing to request further information on the Government’s position ahead of that debate.

It was welcome to see the Government recommit to its plans for a legislative ban on conversion therapy practices intended to change a person’s sexual orientation in last week’s Queen’s Speech. However, concerns have been expressed that – contrary to the Government’s commitments when it launched its consultation on banning conversion therapy last year – transgender conversion therapy will not now be included in the scope of the Conversion Therapy Bill, but will instead be the subject of “separate work”.

Your department’s response to the petition, provided on 12 May, reiterated this position. It noted the possible “complexities” involved in a ban on transgender conversion therapy – including the need to avoid inadvertent impact on the ability of people experiencing gender dysphoria to seek support such as talking therapy – and stated the Government remains committed to exploring the “different considerations” relating to transgender conversion therapy. However, the response did not give any details of what this work would involve.

In view of petitioners’ concern on this matter, and to help inform the debate on 20 June, we would be grateful if you could:

- Explain what evidence the Government has considered to inform its conclusion that it would be inappropriate to include transgender conversion therapy in the proposed ban on conversion therapy practices at this time;
- Set out what form the “separate work” to consider the issue of transgender conversion therapy will take, and the timeframe during which this will take place;
- Confirm when the Government intends to publish its response to the consultation on banning conversion therapy – and whether further details of, and a timetable for, the planned work to consider the issue of transgender conversion therapy will be included as part of that response.



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 4887 Email petitionscommittee@parliament.uk

Website www.parliament.uk/petitions-committee

We would be grateful to receive your reply by no later than Thursday 9 June.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine".

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elliot Colburn".

Elliot Colburn MP
Member of the Petitions Committee