



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Website www.parliament.uk/petitions-committee

Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Minister for Women and Equalities
Government Equalities Office

10 January 2023

Dear Minister

I am writing regarding the Government's failure to respond to e-petition [623243](#), entitled "Update the Equality Act to make clear the characteristic "sex" is biological sex".

The standards for responding to e-petitions, which have been agreed between the Petitions Committee and Leader of the House, state that Government responses should be provided within 14 days and no later than 21 days.

A response to this petition was first requested on 3 November 2022, and the Government's response is now over six weeks late.

Petitioners are entitled to a response from the Government when their petition receives over 10,000 signatures, and this should be provided in a timely fashion. I am sure you will agree that the delay in responding to this petition is not acceptable.

I would be grateful if you could provide the Government's response to this petition, and an explanation for the delay in responding, by no later than Wednesday 18 January.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee