



Women and Equalities Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From the Chair

Rebecca Hilsenrath
Chief Executive, Equality and Human Rights Commission
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By email to: correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com

09 December 2020

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you for your correspondence of the 27 November regarding the Committee's inquiry into the Reform of the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

We are very disappointed that the Equality and Human Rights Commission will not be submitting written evidence to our inquiry. It was also disappointing to only be informed of your decision on the day of the deadline.

We have received over 2000 written submissions, many of which relate to the protected characteristics of gender reassignment, sex and disability. As one of the main functions of the Commission is to enforce equality legislation on all the protected characteristics, we feel it is particularly important to hear from you on the reform of the Gender Recognition Act. In addition, given the concerns our predecessor Committee expressed last year in their 'Enforcing the Equality Act' report on the need for the Commission and Government to prepare a statutory code of practice on single-sex exceptions, we would have hoped the Commission would be actively engaged on this issue in particular.

If you wish to reconsider your position, we will still accept written evidence from you. We will also be inviting the Commission to provide oral evidence in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair, Women and Equalities Committee