

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair, Women and Equalities
Committee

Marcial Boo
Chief Executive

Our ref: 760Nokes

By email only

12 October 2021

Dear Ms Nokes,

Levelling up and equality: recommendation to the Equality and Human Rights Commission

I very much look forward to working with you in my new role at the EHRC, and to appearing before your Committee later this month.

I write now to welcome your report on '[Levelling Up and equality: a framework for change](#)' and to respond to the recommendation at paragraph 65 that the EHRC should 'engage with a range of stakeholders to seek common ground on the most difficult balanced rights issues', including in relation to the protected characteristic of gender reassignment.

This is already an important part of the Commission's approach. As Britain's independent regulator of equality and human rights, we work hard to forge strong, positive relationships with all stakeholders, whether regulators, government departments, civil society bodies, or individuals. In this way, we aim to benefit from the widest range of expertise and evidence that can inform our work to uphold the law and advise policy-makers across Britain on these sometimes contentious issues. This includes bringing people together to engage constructively in debates about the rights of different groups and how

competing interests might best be balanced, even on challenging issues of identity and belief. We held a number of roundtable discussions on the Gender Recognition Act, for example, including with trans people and their representatives and with women's rights organisations.

We intend to facilitate more such dialogues as we implement our new strategy for 2022 to 2025. I look forward to hearing your and your Committee's views on where else the Commission can achieve impact to find common ground on these complex equality and rights issues.

Yours sincerely,



Marcial Boo

Chief Executive

Equality and Human Rights Commission