

Written evidence submitted by Mrs Jane Doe (GRA0033)

- Will the Government's proposed changes meet its aim of making the process "kinder and more straight forward"? **Not really**
- Should a fee for obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate be removed or retained? Are there other financial burdens on applicants that could be removed or retained? **The cost of a GRC is not significant**
- Should the requirement for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria be removed? **No, it is an important part of process**
- Should there be changes to the requirement for individuals to have lived in their acquired gender for at least two years? **No, once a GD diagnosis is given, two years wait is unnecessary**
- What is your view of the statutory declaration and should any changes have been made to it? **It should be simplified, not clear why the formality of a Statutory Declaration is necessary**
- Does the spousal consent provision in the Act need reforming? If so, how? If it needs reforming or removal, is anything else needed to protect any rights of the spouse or civil partner? **Current process provides adequate checks and balances**
- Should the age limit at which people can apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) be lowered? **It has not been noted as issue**
- What impact will these proposed changes have on those people applying for a Gender Recognition Certificate, and on trans people more generally? **No significant change. The current process works reasonably well, but could be made less like a legal submission and more friendly.**
- What else should the Government have included in its proposals, if anything? **As previous answer**
- Does the Scottish Government's proposed Bill offer a more suitable alternative to reforming the Gender Recognition Act 2004? **Unaware of its content**

Wider issues concerning transgender equality and current legislation:

- Why is the number of people applying for GRCs so low compared to the number of people identifying as transgender? **GRC is for those meeting a diagnosis of Transsexual, a permanent desire to make a change. Transgender is a broader term and includes many people who consider their identity fluid. It is to be expected that only a small subset of those identifying as transgender would be eligible for / find it appropriate to acquire a GRD. In essence you are conflating Transsexual and Transgender – they are different.**
- Are there challenges in the way the Gender Recognition Act 2004 and the Equality Act 2010 interact? For example, in terms of the different language and terminology used across both pieces of legislation. **No noted issues as a GRC holder**
- Are the provisions in the Equality Act for the provision of single-sex and separate-sex spaces and facilities in some circumstances clear and useable for service providers and service users? If not, is reform or further guidance needed? **Current arrangements work satisfactorily and do not need changing.**

- Does the Equality Act adequately protect trans people? If not, what reforms, if any, are needed **Current arrangements work satisfactorily and do not need changing.**
- What issues do trans people have in accessing support services, including health and social care services, domestic violence and sexual violence services? **None noted personally**
- Are legal reforms needed to better support the rights of gender-fluid and non-binary people? If so, how? **I do not know – these people have differing needs to GRC holders / applicants.**