

## Written evidence submitted by Bobak [GRA1927]

- Will the Government's proposed changes meet its aim of making the process "kinder and more straight forward"?

While they are positive changes, they are completely insufficient – the government must fund medicine properly, reform medical practices, and end discriminatory legislation, particularly that makes reference to "single sex spaces", which has a very harmful effect on society.

- 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?

Removed, and anything that impedes someone's transition should be removed, be it financial or not.

- Should the requirement for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria be removed?

Yes, transgender people should not have to be subject to examination to be who they are.

- Should there be changes to the requirement for individuals to have lived in their acquired gender for at least two years?

Yes, it's a waste of time and tax-payer money, remove the bureaucracy and get the government out of these people's lives, except to help them.

- What is your view of the statutory declaration and should any changes have been made to it?

The statutory declaration imposes that trans people commit to their decision for the rest of their lives, which is short-sighted and fails to account for the full range of possible lives that people can live.

- 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?

Spouses should not be allowed to force each other into anything, and something so personal should hardly be exempt. The provision needs removal.

- Should the age limit at which people can apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) be lowered?

Yes, to no higher than 16.

- What impact will these proposed changes have on those people applying for a Gender Recognition Certificate, and on trans people more generally?

It will make for a more equal society. Cisgender citizens do not need to go through any rigmarole to be recognised as their gender, and nor should trans ones.

- What else should the Government have included in its proposals, if anything?

Allow for the recognition on nonbinary genders, blanket ban conversion therapy, and provide state funding for medical transitioning.

- Does the Scottish Government's proposed Bill offer a more suitable alternative to reforming the Gender Recognition Act 2004?

Yes, but it remains insufficient.

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- Why is the number of people applying for GRCs so low compared to the number of people identifying as transgender?

Because it's a painful waste of time.

- 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.

The GRA is illiberal and results in pain for people, and while the EA is better, it needlessly makes use of the phrase "single sex spaces", which is far too easily misconstrued and misused. Both could stand to be improved.

- 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?

They are clear in that they are clearly used to discriminate against trans people. Individuals should be the target of any safety legislation, not groups.

- Does the Equality Act adequately protect trans people? If not, what reforms, if any, are needed?

No, as said before, access to transition among other issues still need to be solved.

- What issues do trans people have in accessing support services, including health and social care services, domestic violence and sexual violence services?

No access to medical help, great risk in crisis centers, and LGBT youth programs are losing funding.

- Are legal reforms needed to better support the rights of gender-fluid and non-binary people? If so, how?

There needs to be top-to-bottom integration of genderfluid and non-binary identities as a component of gender identification. This includes birth certificates, passports and driving licences.

**November 2020**