



Equality Hub

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Iain Stewart MP
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Dear Iain,

GENDER RECOGNITION ACT

Thank you for your letter of 9 March, sent on behalf of your constituents, about possible changes to the Gender Recognition Act and single-sex services. I am responding as the Minister of State for Equalities.

We believe that the process of legally changing one's gender is a serious and legally meaningful undertaking which requires appropriate checks and a level of formality. As such, the process of obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) includes several checks and balances, to ensure individuals fully-recognise the importance of the process.

In England, the Government believes the current provisions in the GRA are effective and allow for those who wish to legally change their gender to do so. We have made some changes to modernise the GRC application process, but it is for the Scottish Government to decide how to proceed with their own reform proposals.

With regard to single-sex spaces, this is a separate issue covered by the Equality Act 2010 (the Act). The Act provides important and appropriate protections for single-sex spaces and makes it clear that providers have the right to restrict the use of spaces on the basis of sex, and exclude transgender people, with or without a GRC, if this is justified on a case-by-case basis. This approach has existed for some time and we do not plan to make any changes.

Thank you once again for your email, I hope you find this information helpful and reassuring.

Yours sincerely,

KEMI BADENOCH MP
Minister of State for Equalities and Levelling Up Communities