

## **Not Alone Plymouth**

### **Questions**

**1 Do you have any comments on the proposal that applicants must live in their acquired gender for at least 3 months before applying for a GRC?**

Yes

**If yes, please outline these comments.:**

It is unclear what evidence there is to encourage an arbitrary 3 month waiting time for trans people prior to application.

**2 Do you have any comments on the proposal that applicants must go through a period of reflection for at least 3 months before obtaining a GRC?**

Yes

**If yes, please outline these comments.:**

This additional three month reflection period seems arbitrary and perhaps condescending to repeatedly ask trans people if they are sure. Many of our service users have known their gender identity from a young age, have laboured over the whether to come out or not, have faced fear, public prejudice, hate crime and family rejection in the process of coming out. This is not a process they take flippantly, and by the stage to applying for gender recognition and making a statutory declaration attesting to their gender, it seems unnecessary to ask them to think about it for another 3 months.

**3 Should the minimum age at which a person can apply for legal gender recognition be reduced from 18 to 16?**

Yes

**If you wish, please give reasons for your view.:**

**4 Do you have any other comments on the provisions of the draft Bill?**

Yes

**If yes, please outline these comments.:**

We support a growing number of people who are non-binary. They deserve recognition and are equally valid and valued members of our community. The government should take this opportunity to recognise them.

This is the second iteration of this consultation, and many members of our community feel tired if this constant process of consulting on their rights. The extended nature of GRA consultation in the UK has encouraged a negative media

climate in which trans people have been regularly focused on in the national and local press and transphobic attitudes have taken hold. This has resulted in an appearance of a growingly hostile climate for trans people in the UK, and has discouraged some in coming out (based on our experience with service users). We are also concerned this second iteration will bias the results of the consultation to the extreme ends of the spectrum of views on this.

**5 Do you have any comments on the draft Impact Assessments?**

Yes

**If yes, please outline these comments.:**

Trans people have been using single sex services for years without incident.