

Ypeople

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.:

We consulted with staff, volunteers, and people we support, for all of the questions in this consultation.

The majority of respondents were in agreement and support the proposal that there should be a reduction in the waiting time from two years to three months.

However, it was clear that many people believe that the three month period is arbitrary, and that the risk of distress and damage to peoples' mental health is exacerbated over the passing of time.

A quote from a respondent was, "I think making applicants wait any significant amount of time to apply for GRC is likely to have a detrimental effect on them and their identity. There should not be a time restriction."

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.:

The majority of respondents felt that a period of reflection could be helpful, and there was support for this being reduced, but putting a time target on it was unnecessary, given that trans people may have been reflecting for their whole lives before reaching the decision to apply for GRC.

A quote from a respondent was, "Applicants will have already reflected a lot and it isn't fair to force them to question how they feel / someone would have reflected for much of their life so unnecessary to enforce a reflection period."

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.:

The majority of respondents agreed with the reduction in age.

A quote from a respondent was, "Old enough to vote, old enough to make this decision"

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Respondents were in agreement with the broad themes of the bill, and believed that the reduction in timings was an improvement. There was considerable support for a less intensive process for people, with a recognition that the sooner trans people can be themselves the better.

A quote from a respondent was, "Anything that makes something that is already sensitive easier is a step in the right direction."

There was a noted gap in the bill for the recognition of non-binary people, who deserve to be afforded the same rights as the rest of the population.

A quote from a respondent was, "While this is a step forwards, it cannot be truly successful if it does not include the whole gender spectrum, such as those who

identify as non-binary.”

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Unanimously, respondents hope that the impact of this bill will be positive, and that it will help trans people to be their true selves sooner, resulting in fewer mental health issues, a reduction in suicide rates, and homelessness, among other social problems where trans people are disproportionately represented. There was support from women respondents on the inclusion of all women in women’s-only spaces.

A quote from a respondent was, “I don't believe it will have any impact on me other than being able to see trans people use the services specific to their gender. If I can use women's only services and facilities as a cis woman, I would like trans women to be able to use them the same as I would.”