

Good Afternoon,

I would like to add my backing to the letter published in The Times from a number of leading experts, regarding the proposal to obfuscate or even exclude a question on birth sex, in favour of self declared gender identity in the census.

The purpose of the census, as I understand it, is to gain a true picture of the demographics of society to help the Governments prepare for public spending and legislation etc. A person's biological sex has a profound effect on how they use public services, specifically the NHS.

I have never yet seen an agreed definition of gender identity, so I honestly cannot say that I have one at all. So if the question is only on gender identity, I would be unable to answer it.

However I do have a female body and my life has been shaped by it. I've experienced harassment, inequality and health issues which are unique to the female sex. Please do not seek to erase these inequalities and issues by erasing the means by which they are measured.

I am fully in favour of an additional gender identity question for those who feel they have one, but if the data is to have any value at all, it must include biological sex, as observed at birth. That will give a true picture of the number of people in our society who don't identify with their sex observed at birth, and allow for appropriate planning of gender identity specific health services, which we know currently have long waiting lists.

Plus, even people with a different gender identity from their sex still need to access sex specific services, as we've seen with a number of transmen who have gotten pregnant and given birth in recent years.

Biological sex matters for all of us. Without a biological sex, how can a person be trans?

Please don't exclude or obfuscate it, and please don't make the census impossible to complete for those of us who do not have a gender identity.

Kind Regards

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