

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to proposal contained in the document Draft Guidance on Collecting Sex and Gender Data, I would like to provide the following feedback:

As sex is an observable, immutable and an important classification with respect to overall outcomes for the population. It is of particular importance in medical and health outcomes.

On the other hand, Gender Identity is an undefined, unobserved idea that relies on Stereotypical behaviours of males and females.

I am a female. My life, and particularly my medical care is influence by being female. This is particularly important when it comes to medication doses and screening for female specific cancers. I do not have a gender identity or an innate sense of being a woman, I am a human being who has a female body type.

I welcome the opportunity for others to be able to answer questions on their gender identity if they so have one but just like for religion there must be the opportunity to answer none.

I am also concerned that guidance suggests any question on sex can be recorded as self-identified sex when it is an empirical fact that is noted on birth certificates. Allowing people to answer differently on certain questions based on their belief will ultimately lower the quality of data and result in a loss of trust from the public. It makes a mockery of the data collection exercise and may result in individuals providing misleading information that cannot be proved to be false.

I would hope that the census 2022 will give me the opportunity to answer a factual question on my biological birth sex eg for me it would be 'female'. There should be an opportunity for those people who wish to answer a question on Gender Identity to do so but there must also be an opportunity for those without a gender identity to answer 'none'.

As a former educator I would like to say I found the language of the **Guidance** overly complex and very unclear, the **Jargon** overpowering and the wording and the long sentences impenetrable.

Yours sincerely

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