

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Conclusion

14. You are invited to:

- note this submission;

[REDACTED]

SARAH DUNCAN
Justice, Civil Law, Family and Property
X [REDACTED]

26 February 2018

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister					X
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs			X		
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs					X
Lord Advocate					X

Permanent Secretary
 DG Education, Communities and Justice
 Director for Children and Families
 Director for Justice
 Lisa Bird, Equality
 [REDACTED] Equality
 [REDACTED] Equality
 Jan Marshall, Civil Law
 [REDACTED] Equality Analytical Services
 Solicitor to the Scottish Government and PS
 Alison Coull, SGLD
 [REDACTED] SGLD
 [REDACTED] SGLD
 Catherine Calderwood, Chief Medical Officer
 Colin McConnell, Chief Executive, Scottish Prison Service
 [REDACTED] Community Justice
 Tim Ellis, Registrar General
 [REDACTED] NRS
 [REDACTED] NRS
 Simon Stockwell, Civil Law
 Communications CSSE
 [REDACTED]
 Jeanette Campbell, Special Adviser

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 February 2018 12:45
To: Stockwell SW (Simon); [Redacted] Communications CSSE; Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice); [Redacted]
Cc: Marshall J (Jan); [Redacted] Campbell J (Jeanette)
Subject: FW: Gender recognition: meeting with Women's Spaces: draft submission
Importance: High

Hi Simon,

Thanks for this. I have made two amendments in the eRDM version in paragraphs 4 and 12.

[Redacted]

Thanks,

[Redacted]

From: Stockwell SW (Simon)
Sent: 26 February 2018 12:17
To: McDonald A (Alison); Communications CSSE; Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice); [Redacted]
Cc: Marshall J (Jan); [Redacted] Campbell J (Jeanette)
Subject: Gender recognition: meeting with Women's Spaces: draft submission
Importance: High



Gender

Gender

[Redacted]

Comms
Sarah

[Redacted]

1. I attach a draft submission to CabSec following last week's meeting at official level with Women's Spaces.
2. Grateful for comments by close tonight. I'd like to put up before the Equality Network reception in the Parliament tomorrow evening.
3. [Redacted] will wish to note the reference to trans prisoners and that I would intend to copy the CEO of the SPS into the submission.

4. Could **Sarah** please update the stats on the number of responses to the consultation.

5. Are [REDACTED] aware of any existing briefing on what the SG does to support women? I think there's a lot we can say in that area, and it may be that there is some existing briefing on that which we could use.

Simon Stockwell
Family and Property



From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 February 2018 13:27
To: [Redacted] Stockwell SW (Simon); [Redacted] Communications
 CSSE; Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice); [Redacted]
Cc: Marshall J (Jan); [Redacted] Campbell J (Jeanette)
Subject: RE: Gender recognition: meeting with Women's Spaces: draft submission

Thanks Simon,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | **Gender Equality Policy** | The Equality Unit | Scottish Government |
 Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ | T [Redacted]

Scotland believes in equality.

Visit onescotland.org and share your support
 for the campaign on Facebook and Twitter



onescotland.org



From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 February 2018 12:45
To: Stockwell SW (Simon); [Redacted] Communications CSSE; Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice); [Redacted]

[REDACTED]
Cc: Marshall J (Jan); [REDACTED] Campbell J (Jeanette)
Subject: FW: Gender recognition: meeting with Women's Spaces: draft submission
Importance: High

Hi Simon,

Thanks for this. I have made two amendments in the eRDM version in paragraphs 4 and 12.

[REDACTED]
Thanks,

From: Stockwell SW (Simon)
Sent: 26 February 2018 12:17
To: [REDACTED]; Communications CSSE; Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice); [REDACTED]
Cc: Marshall J (Jan); [REDACTED] Campbell J (Jeanette)
Subject: Gender recognition: meeting with Women's Spaces: draft submission
Importance: High

<< File: Gender Recognition consultation- update on consultation position- submission to Cab Sec- 23.2.2018.obr >>
<< File: Gender Recognition consultation- update on consultation position- submission to Cab Sec- 23.2.2018.docx >>

Comms
Sarah

1. I attach a draft submission to CabSec following last week's meeting at official level with Women's Spaces.
2. Grateful for comments by close tonight. I'd like to put up before the Equality Network reception in the Parliament tomorrow evening.
3. [REDACTED] will wish to note the reference to trans prisoners and that I would intend to copy the CEO of the SPS into the submission.
4. Could **Sarah** please update the stats on the number of responses to the consultation.
5. Are [REDACTED] aware of any existing briefing on what the SG does to support women? I think there's a lot we can say in that area, and it may be that there is some existing briefing on that which we could use.

Simon Stockwell
Family and Property



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 February 2018 13:29
To: Stockwell SW (Simon); [REDACTED] Communications CSSE; Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice); [REDACTED]
Cc: Marshall J (Jan); [REDACTED] Campbell J (Jeanette); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Gender recognition: meeting with Women's Spaces: draft submission

Thanks Simon

Both reference and intention to include SPS noted. We briefly spoke about this and the fact that they are best placed to answer questions about their approach to dealing with trans prisoners.

Regards

From: Stockwell SW (Simon)
Sent: 26 February 2018 12:17
To: [REDACTED]; Communications CSSE; Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice); [REDACTED]
Cc: Marshall J (Jan); [REDACTED] Campbell J (Jeanette)
Subject: Gender recognition: meeting with Women's Spaces: draft submission
Importance: High

<< File: Gender Recognition consultation- update on consultation position- submission to Cab Sec- 23.2.2018.obr >>
<< File: Gender Recognition consultation- update on consultation position- submission to Cab Sec- 23.2.2018.docx >>

Comms

Sarah

[REDACTED]

1. I attach a draft submission to CabSec following last week's meeting at official level with Women's Spaces.
2. Grateful for comments by close tonight. I'd like to put up before the Equality Network reception in the Parliament tomorrow evening.
3. [REDACTED] will wish to note the reference to trans prisoners and that I would intend to copy the CEO of the SPS into the submission.
4. Could Sarah please update the stats on the number of responses to the consultation.

5. Are [REDACTED] aware of any existing briefing on what the SG does to support women? I think there's a lot we can say in that area, and it may be that there is some existing briefing on that which we could use.

Simon Stockwell
Family and Property
X [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice)
Sent: 26 February 2018 14:09
To: Stockwell SW (Simon); [REDACTED] Communications CSSE; [REDACTED]
Cc: Marshall J (Jan); [REDACTED] Campbell J (Jeanette)
Subject: RE: Gender recognition: meeting with Women's Spaces: draft submission

Simon,

I have tracked changes in ERDM with the latest consultation figures (8635 responses) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sarah

From: Stockwell SW (Simon)
Sent: 26 February 2018 12:17
To: [REDACTED]; Communications CSSE; Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice); [REDACTED]
Cc: Marshall J (Jan); [REDACTED] Campbell J (Jeanette)
Subject: Gender recognition: meeting with Women's Spaces: draft submission
Importance: High

<< File: Gender Recognition consultation- update on consultation position- submission to Cab Sec- 23.2.2018.obr >>
<< File: Gender Recognition consultation- update on consultation position- submission to Cab Sec- 23.2.2018.docx >>

Comms

Sarah

[REDACTED]

1. I attach a draft submission to CabSec following last week's meeting at official level with Women's Spaces.
2. Grateful for comments by close tonight. I'd like to put up before the Equality Network reception in the Parliament tomorrow evening.
3. [REDACTED] will wish to note the reference to trans prisoners and that I would intend to copy the CEO of the SPS into the submission.
4. Could Sarah please update the stats on the number of responses to the consultation.
5. Are [REDACTED] aware of any existing briefing on what the SG does to support women? I think there's a lot we can say in that area, and it may be that there is some existing briefing on that which we could use.

Simon Stockwell
Family and Property
X [REDACTED]

From: Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice)
Sent: 27 February 2018 09:35
To: Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities
Cc: First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs; Lord Advocate; Permanent Secretary; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director for Children and Families; Director of Justice; Bird L (Lisa); [redacted] Marshall J (Jan); [redacted] Solicitor to the Scottish Government and PS; Coull AJ (Alison); [redacted] Calderwood C (Catherine); McConnell Colin; [redacted] Ellis T (Tim); [redacted] Stockwell SW (Simon); Communications CSSE; [redacted] Campbell J (Jeanette); [redacted]

Subject: Review of Gender Recognition Act 2004- consultation- meeting with Women's Spaces in Scotland



Générer Générer
[redacted]

PS/ Cabinet Secretary,

1. I attach a submission in ERDM and word.
2. Submission is 4 pages.
3. Routine.

Sarah Duncan
Family and Property Law Team
Ext [redacted]

From: Sarah Duncan
Justice: Civil: Family & Property

Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities

REVIEW OF GENDER RECOGNITION ACT 2004

Purpose

1. To:
 - advise about a recent meeting between officials and the organisation Women's Spaces in Scotland;
 - [REDACTED]

Priority

2. Routine.

Detail

Meeting with Women's Spaces in Scotland

3. Officials from the Family and Property Team and from the Equality Unit met on 22 February with representatives from a group called Women's Spaces in Scotland.
4. Women's Spaces in Scotland are opposed to reforming the 2004 Act. They raised a number of points:
 - The use of both "sex" and "gender" within the 2004 Act and the consultation, and the lack of a definition of "gender". [Their point is that "gender" and "sex" should be seen as distinct concepts. The effect of the 2004 Act as it stands is that a person who obtains a full Gender Recognition Certificate acquires both a gender and a sex.]
 - Their view that the number and nature of women's organisations who had been directly consulted was unsatisfactory. [The published list of organisations sent the consultation includes just 3 women's organisations and a far larger number of religious bodies. This reflects that the list has developed as a result of other consultations undertaken by the Family and Property Team, including on same sex marriage. We said to Women's Spaces that a number of women opposed to the proposals had responded to the consultation. The consultation makes it clear that "any organisation or individual with an interest in this consultation is encouraged to submit their views using Citizen Space or by post".]
 - Whether the consultation was confusing for the public. [We noted the large number of responses already received.]

- The proposals would go beyond people who have gender dysphoria. [Under the current system, people applying to the Gender Recognition Panel must usually provide evidence of a diagnosis of gender dysphoria. The proposals would remove that requirement but would still require people to make a statutory declaration confirming their permanent intention to live, as the case may be, as a man or a woman.]
- Concerns that male offenders will seek to declare themselves as women for the purpose of being accommodated in a female prison unit, and the implications for the safety of other prisoners and prison staff. [We noted that the Scottish Prisons Service already has a Gender Identity and Gender Reassignment Policy for those in their custody and that policies needed to be based around the risk caused by any particular offender.]
- The impact of any reform for children and young people, and in particular on those seeking access to what they consider potentially unsafe puberty blockers and cross sex hormones. [We noted that the consultation was not about medical and surgical treatment, and that the consultation was highly consultative about what approach should be taken on the availability of legal gender recognition for those under 16.]
- The impact of increased numbers of people recognised under a self-declaratory process on statistical evidence about crime and for statistics about equality between women and men. Women’s Spaces also suggested this might lead to the Scottish Government altering its policy approach to gender equality and gender-based violence. [We noted the strong SG commitment to gender equality and to tackling gender-based violence as shown, for example, in a number of areas such as the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill, the Equally Safe Delivery Plan, and the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill.]

5. Women’s Spaces expressed concerns that their right to freedom of expression and of assembly are being impacted adversely by some trans activists. They allege that activists have disrupted their public meetings and sought to intimidate those who attend or who are at or near the venue by wearing masks, following any women that they suspect will be attending, and taking photographs of those emerging from the venues.

6. A mailshot yesterday by the Equality Network/Scottish Trans Alliance urging people to respond to the consultation also raised points in this type of area. The EN/STA said:

“ Over the last few weeks and months we have seen anti-trans articles in the media ranging from frustratingly ignorant to outrageously hostile. Anti-trans forces within and outside Scotland are mobilising intensively to try to block progress. A horrible sustained campaign of misinformation and incitement to moral panic has taken its toll and I’m not the only person who has had trans friends left hurt and fearful. Sadly, trans friends are being demonised by the same anti-equality arguments made during the campaign to repeal section 28 and against same-sex marriage”.

7. Women’s Spaces suggested it would help if the SG emphasised its commitment to freedom of speech and if the Scottish Government could state publicly that the expression of disagreement with the reform of the 2004 Act is not transphobic. [Similar points arose in relation to the opposition by some religious bodies to same sex marriage. Section 16 of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 provides that nothing in Part 1 of the Act insofar as it makes provision for the same sex marriage and

for the solemnisation of same sex marriages affects the exercise of rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and of expression.]

8. Women's Spaces would like any statements of this nature to be made soon (i.e. while the consultation is still live – it closes on Thursday 1 March at 5pm). We said this was unlikely to be possible and it would be preferable to seek other opportunities to make statements of this nature.



10. Women's Spaces would be prepared to attend a round table discussion on the proposed reforms to the Act, if we should wish to hold one.



Conclusion

18. You are invited to:

- note this submission;

■

■

SIMON STOCKWELL AND SARAH DUNCAN
Justice, Civil Law, Family and Property
X [REDACTED]

27 February 2018

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
First Minister					X
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs			X		
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs					X
Lord Advocate					X

Permanent Secretary
 DG Education, Communities and Justice
 Director for Children and Families
 Director for Justice
 Lisa Bird, Equality
 [REDACTED] quality
 [REDACTED] Equality
 Jan Marshall, Civil Law
 [REDACTED] Equality Analytical Services
 [REDACTED] Comms - Digital
 Solicitor to the Scottish Government and PS
 Alison Coull, SGLD
 [REDACTED] SGLD
 [REDACTED] SGLD
 Catherine Calderwood, Chief Medical Officer
 Colin McConnell, Chief Executive, Scottish Prison Service
 [REDACTED] Community Justice
 [REDACTED] Registrar General
 [REDACTED] NRS
 [REDACTED] NRS
 Simon Stockwell, Civil Law
 Communications CSSE
 [REDACTED] Communications CSSE
 [REDACTED], Communications
 [REDACTED], Parliamentary team
 Jeanette Campbell, Special Adviser

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: 05 March 2018 11:38
To: Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice)
Subject: GRC Consultation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sarah,

Firstly, thank you so much for organising the meeting on the 22nd February. We very much appreciated the opportunity to ask questions, and to be heard by yourselves at the Scottish Government. Our members were very interested to hear our feedback.

I'd also like for one final piece of information if you don't mind.

I am tasked with writing a post for our Facebook page and want to include some information about the final numbers of responses. I noted that Simon Stockwell said that there had been 6,600 response at the date of our meeting. Can you supply me with the final total number of responses to the consultation? I want to ensure that any information we put out is accurate, but if a precise number is unavailable, then a ball-park figure will suffice I suppose.

Additionally, Simon mentioned that he would speak to Angela Constance about our concerns about "hate speech". Do you know if he made any progress with that? I'm happy to put our concerns in writing to Angela if that helps in any way.

Looking forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Women's Spaces in Scotland.

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

[REDACTED]

From: Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice)
Sent: 09 March 2018 15:58
To: Stockwell SW (Simon)
Subject: Correspondence with Women's Spaces in Scotland

Simon,

We briefly discussed this request from WSS below following on our meeting with them on 22 February.

You wanted to see a draft of a response to this email from [REDACTED]. What about the following?

"Thanks for your enquiry.

We are still collating the responses received through Citizen Space and those received by post. However, we understand there are over 15,000 responses. Where permission has been given, all responses will be published on Citizen Space at <https://consult.gov.scot/>. I can update you once publication is close.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

Sarah

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: 05 March 2018 11:38
To: Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice)
Subject: GRC Consultation

Dear Sarah,

Firstly, thank you so much for organising the meeting on the 22nd February. We very much appreciated the opportunity to ask questions, and to be heard by yourselves at the Scottish Government. Our members were very interested to hear our feedback.

I'd also like for one final piece of information if you don't mind.

I am tasked with writing a post for our Facebook page and want to include some information about the final numbers of responses. I noted that Simon Stockwell said that there had been 6,600 response at the date of our meeting. Can you supply me with the final total number of responses to the consultation? I want to

ensure that any information we put out is accurate, but if a precise number is unavailable, then a ball-park figure will suffice I suppose.

Additionally, Simon mentioned that he would speak to Angela Constance about our concerns about "hate speech". Do you know if he made any progress with that? I'm happy to put our concerns in writing to Angela if that helps in any way.

Looking forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible.

With kind regards,



Women's Spaces in Scotland.

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

[Redacted]

From: Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice)
Sent: 15 March 2018 18:10
To: Stockwell SW (Simon); [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Review of Gender Recognition- draft submission- high level information on outcomes of consultation



[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

5. I would like to get this up to Ms Constance's office early next week if possible, so if you could reply **by close of play on Monday 19 March**.

Thanks,

Sarah
X [Redacted]

Document 35

From:

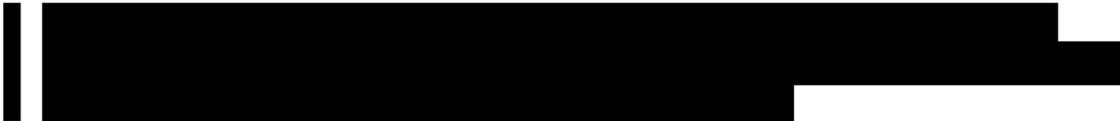
Justice: Civil: Family

Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities

REVIEW OF THE GENDER RECOGNITION ACT 2004

Purpose

1. This submission:

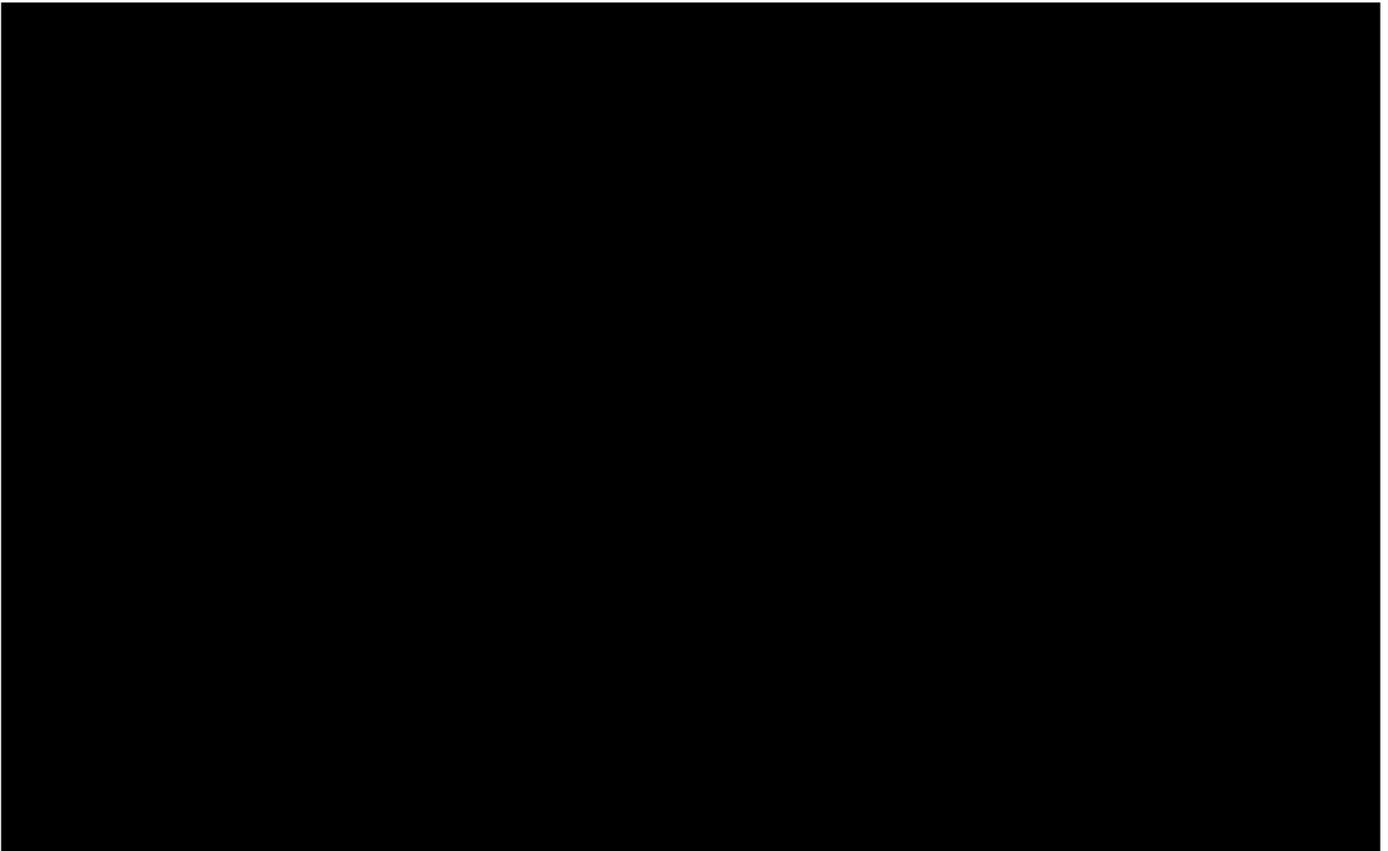


- Provides you with further information on the group Women's Spaces in Scotland and their request for a statement about freedom of speech.

Priority

2. **Routine.** For information.

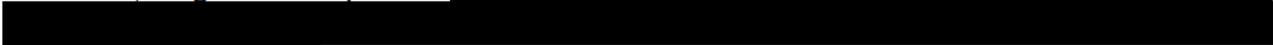
Detail





Meeting with Women's Spaces in Scotland

8. Our submission of 27 February discusses a meeting between officials and representatives of the group Women's Spaces in Scotland. The submission also noted their concerns about their concerns that freedom of speech was being adversely affected by claims that their opposition to reform of the 2004 Act was always transphobic. They had suggested that a statement from Scottish Government that this was not necessarily the case, might be helpful.



Conclusion

10. You are asked to note:

- this submission; and
- that further submissions will be provided with advice and options on progressing the review.

Justice: Civil: Family and Property
X  March 2018

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness

Permanent Secretary
 DG Learning and Justice
 Neil Rennick, Director, Justice
 Jan Marshall, Deputy Director, Civil Law and
 Legal System
 Solicitor to the Scottish Government and PS
 Alison Coull, SGLD
 [REDACTED]
 Director, Children and Families
 John Froggatt, Children and Families:
 Improving Health and Wellbeing
 [REDACTED]
 Lisa Bird, Equality Unit
 [REDACTED]
 Communications CSSE
 [REDACTED]
 Jeanette Campbell, Special Adviser

ANNEX C: SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSES- POINTS MADE BY KEY BODIES

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. There are responses opposing reform from a number of groups such as [REDACTED] Women's Spaces in Scotland and [REDACTED] who note similar concerns [REDACTED]

² In 2015, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ("CoE") adopted Resolution 2048 "Discrimination against transgender people in Europe" at <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=21736&lang=en>

³ Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity at <http://www.yogyakartaprinciples.org/principles-en/>.

⁴ A.P., GARÇON ET NICOT c. FRANCE (nos [79885/12](#), [52471/13](#) et [52596/13](#))

ANNEX F: WOMEN'S SPACES IN SCOTLAND

1. Women's Spaces in Scotland's website (<https://womensspacesinScotland.com/about/>) provides no information regarding their nature or constitution as an organisation separate from individuals subscribing to their views, or about the numbers of members or their alignment with UK groups or organisations.

2. The website describes them as

"a diverse group of women with a shared goal to protect our country's single-sex services. Under proposed changes to the Gender Recognition Act, it may soon be possible to legally declare yourself a member of the opposite sex simply by matter of self-identification. We are concerned about the potential impact this will have on women."

3. We have not found any twitter activity from this group before late January this year. Before this, a group from south of the border, Women's Places UK had been organising feminist discussion events concerning the 2004 Act. They organised a meeting in Scotland on 10 January this year and this may have led to the creation of Women's Spaces in Scotland

Statement about freedom of speech

4. At our meeting on 22 February with Women's Spaces, they expressed concerns that their right to freedom of expression and of assembly are being impacted adversely by some trans activists. A separate mailshot by the Equality Network/Scottish Trans Alliance before the consultation close urging people to respond to the consultation, also raised points in this type of area.

5. Women's Spaces suggested it would help if the SG emphasised its commitment to freedom of speech and if the Scottish Government could state publicly that the expression of disagreement with the reform of the 2004 Act is not transphobic. [Similar points arose in relation to the opposition by some religious bodies to same sex marriage. Section 16 of the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 provides that nothing in Part 1 of the Act insofar as it makes provision for the same sex marriage and for the solemnisation of same sex marriages affects the exercise of rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and of expression.]



[Redacted]

From: Stockwell SW (Simon)
Sent: 19 March 2018 13:34
To: Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice)
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Review of Gender Recognition- draft submission- high level information on outcomes of consultation



Review of Gender Recognition- draft submission- high level information on outcomes of consultation - ...
Review of Gender Recognition- draft submission- high level information on outcomes of consultation - ...

Sarah

Thanks. A few minor tweaks and additions. I think you should sign. I have slightly amended the copy list.

[Redacted]

Simon x [Redacted]

From: Duncan SE (Sarah) (Justice)
Sent: 15 March 2018 18:10
To: Stockwell SW (Simon); [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Review of Gender Recognition- draft submission- high level information on outcomes of consultation

<< File: Review of Gender Recognition- consultation- submission on high level outcomes- 15 March 2018.obr >> << File: Review of Gender Recognition- consultation- submission on high level outcomes- 15 March 2018.docx >>

1. I attach in ERDM and word a draft submission to Ms Constance containing information about a range of matters related to the consultation, but primarily the high level outcomes of the consultation.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

5. I would like to get this up to Ms Constance's office early next week if possible, so if you could reply **by close of play on Monday 19 March**.

Thanks,

Sarah

X 

From: Sarah Duncan
Justice: Civil: Family

Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities

REVIEW OF THE GENDER RECOGNITION ACT 2004

Purpose

1. This submission:

[REDACTED]

- Provides you with further information on the group Women's Spaces in Scotland and their request for a statement about freedom of speech and asks you to agree our proposed reply to a recent email from them.

Priority

2. Routine.

Detail

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Meeting with Women’s Spaces in Scotland

9. Our submission of 27 February discusses a meeting between officials and representatives of the group Women’s Spaces in Scotland. The submission also noted their concerns that freedom of speech was being adversely affected by claims that their opposition to reform of the 2004 Act was transphobic. They had suggested that a statement from the Scottish Government about freedom of speech and saying that opposition to reform of the 2004 Act was not transphobic might be helpful.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

13. Women’s Spaces have now emailed us asking about the number of responses to the consultation and whether you are aware of their concerns about “hate speech”. They indicated that they would be happy to put their concerns in writing to you if that would be helpful.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Conclusion

16. You are asked to:

- note this submission;