



Scottish Government Library Literature Search Request

Requested by

Staff ID number	[Redacted]
Name	[Redacted]
Room/Building	[Redacted]
Phone	[Redacted]
Date requested	13/03/2017
Date required (specific date please)	29/03/2017

Search context (It is useful for us to know why the information is needed)

The Scottish Government is reviewing the Gender Recognition Act 2004, and aims to reform gender recognition law to "bring it into line with international best practice," as pledged by the SNP in their manifesto.

The Scottish Transgender Alliance (STA), has 3 "asks" in its Equal Recognition Campaign:

- legal gender recognition to be self-declaratory.
- the current minimum age of 18 to be reduced.
- legal recognition for people who do not identify as men or women (non-binary).

Robust evidence is required to inform any decisions made in relation to reforming the Gender Recognition Act.

Topic of search (Please provide details of your search requirements)

The use of hormones to block puberty, "puberty blockers" for young people who have gender dysphoria (feel that their gender identity does not match with their biological sex), and who want to transition to become a member of the opposite sex.

In particular:

- Looking at the effects of puberty-blockers – is there any evidence that these effects are reversible once treatment is stopped? Is there any evidence of longer term impacts once treatment with puberty-blockers has stopped?
- What is the evidence base around the safety/risk of harm of young people being given puberty blockers? Are there unintended consequences/side effects resulting from taking puberty blockers
- What are the risks of denying young people access to puberty blockers (e.g. in terms of their mental health)?

A related, but secondary point is:

- What are the/are there alternatives to puberty blockers? - Is there any evidence that other interventions are equally as/ or more effective in treating young people with gender dysphoria than using puberty blockers? If so, what are these, and what is the evidence to support them?

E.g.

- Social interventions and support for relationships/supporting parents
- Schools and education
- Interventions to minimise distress and risk

Suggested keywords

“puberty blockers”, “hormones to block puberty”, “gender dysphoria” “transgender young people”, “transgender”, “gender identity”, “gender identity clinics”, “side effects”, “impacts”, “effects”, “biological sex”, “best practice”, “social intervention”, “medical intervention”, “psychological intervention”, “education”, “risk”, “distress”, “harm”, “mental health”,

Please describe in a sentence what you are looking for

Evidence around the impacts on young people of taking puberty blockers, and if the effects are reversible once treatment is stopped.

Please indicate any research you may have done in this area to avoid duplication. If you know of any organisations, sources or pertinent papers, please give details.

Communities Analysis Division has already carried out a brief scoping paper/literature review around the related topic of the persistence of gender dysphoria in young people beyond the onset of puberty, which has informed discussion around revisions to the Gender Recognition Act.

Time coverage

Last 3 years Last 5 years Other (please specify) It's quite a specialist area, unsure how much will be out there, so start with the most recent, but go back as far as the last 10 years, if there isn't much available from recent years

Geographical coverage

Scotland UK Europe Other (please specify) America, Australia as well as UK and Europe. Much of the evidence is likely to come from America

How did you hear about the literature search service?

Previous user Word of mouth Saltire (Intranet) Training event

Please email this form to the Library inbox, or post to Library, GD Bridge, Victoria Quay.