

Doc 1- email exchanges of 14 and 15 April 2020

From: Tim Hopkins []@equality-network.org

Sent: 15 April 2020 08:44

To: [redacted] [] @gov.scot

Cc: [redacted][] @gov.scot>; [redacted] []@gov.scot>; [redacted][]@gov.scot; [redacted] [] @gov.scot

Subject: RE: Gender recognition consultation: analysis

Thanks for the update!

Tim

From: [redacted] [] @gov.scot>

Sent: 14 April 2020 20:11

To: Tim Hopkins <[]@equality-network.org>

Cc: [redacted][] @gov.scot; [redacted] []@gov.scot; [redacted][]@gov.scot; [redacted] [] @gov.scot

Subject: Gender recognition consultation: analysis

Tim

Hi.

Following the statement by the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans in Parliament about the impact of COVID-19 for the Scottish Government's legislative programme, you asked about the impact on the analysis of the consultation responses.

For the present, work on progressing the analysis has been halted. We had been seeking to commission an independent analysis of the consultation responses and tenders had been received. However, we have decided to close that competition for the analysis without awarding the contract. Due to the COVID-19 situation, we are aware that some tenderers may need to reconsider their own costs and contingencies which may have altered since the original submission of the tenders. In addition, the Scottish Government needs to focus at the moment on COVID-19 priorities.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People advised in her letter dated 1 April to you and other LGBT groups following the statement that we will, when resources allow, take forward the work of analysing the consultation responses. I cannot give a timetable at this point, but the decision not to progress the analysis at this stage will be kept under review.

All the best.

[redacted]

Family Law Policy
Scottish Government
[redacted]

Doc 2- Email dated 1 October 2020

From: Vic Valentine

Sent: 01 October 2020 17:21

To: [redacted] (EHRTS) ; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted]

Subject: FW: Letter from Scottish Trans re: trans community roundtable on September 17th 2020

Hi All,

Please see attached a letter that Oceana and I have just sent on behalf of all of the attendees at our online roundtable for trans community members with the Minister for Older People and Equalities.

All the best,

Vic

Vic Valentine
Policy Officer



Scottish Trans

30 Bernard Street

Edinburgh

EH6 6PR

Telephone: 0131 467 6039

www.scottishtrans.org



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Doc 3- letter referred to in email dated 1
October 2020



30 Bernard Street
Edinburgh
EH6 6PR

Christina McKelvie MSP
Minister for Older People and
Equalities Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
By email: MinisterOPE@gov.scot

1st October 2020

Dear Christina,

Thank you very much for taking the time to meet with trans community members online on 17th September and to answer our questions about trans equality. We really appreciated your willingness to hear our concerns, and it was good to have the opportunity to raise issues that we feel strongly about, and that require actions from the Scottish Government to improve trans people's lives.

We wanted to write to you to outline what we are hoping the outcomes will be from the issues discussed, and to also ask some follow up questions after discussing the roundtable together as a group.

[Redacted- out of scope]

[Redacted- out of scope]

4. Gender Recognition Certificate fees

We were encouraged to hear that Scottish Government proposals to reform the Gender Recognition Act would include removing the fee for applying. This is currently £140, which is prohibitively expensive for many trans people.

- i) Would you be able to confirm that the current policy proposal is to remove the fee entirely for applying for a Gender Recognition Certificate?

Once again, we wanted to thank you for your time, for coming to hear our concerns, and for the opportunity to ask you questions about the things that matter to us.

We look forward to hearing back from you, and to working together to improve the lives of trans people in Scotland.

With best wishes on behalf of all those at the roundtable,

[Signature redacted]

Oceana Maund
Scottish Trans Alliance
Community Engagement Officer

[Signature redacted]

Vic Valentine
Scottish Trans Alliance
Policy Officer

Document 4- Response dated 13 January 2021

Minister for Older People and Equalities
Christina McKelvie MSP



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Oceana Maund and Vic Valentine
Scottish Trans Alliance
30 Bernard Street
Edinburgh
EH6 6PR

By email: [redacted][@equality-network.org](mailto:[redacted]@equality-network.org) [redacted][@equality-network.org](mailto:[redacted]@equality-network.org)

13 January 2021

Dear Oceana and Vic,

Thank you for your correspondence of 1st October 2020 regarding a number of key issues affecting the trans community, following on from our roundtable discussion on 17th September 2020. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. I have addressed each of the important issues you have raised in turn below.

[Redacted- out of scope]

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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www.gov.scot



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Gender Recognition Certificates

The Scottish Government continues to have a strong commitment to reform the Gender Recognition Act 2004.

As you'll no doubt be aware, to support our approach we have consulted twice, firstly on the principles of reform and again on the draft Gender Recognition Bill, to alleviate concerns and address any anxieties in relation to our proposals.

This consultation was published at the end of last year, alongside the draft Bill. We are taking forward the work of analysing the responses to our consultation. This is with the intention of publishing the analysis report prior to the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament in advance of elections due to take place in May 2021.

Currently, under the Gender Recognition Act 2004, applicants must pay a non-refundable fee of £140, unless they qualify for a fee remission or reduced fee. The [UK Government announced](#) on 22 September that they will 'reduce the fee from £140 to a nominal amount'. You may wish to contact the UK Government Equalities Office for any further details.

Sanctuary Buildings
16-20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
United Kingdom

Email: geo.correspondence@geo.gov.uk

I hope this response has been helpful. I know that you have asked officials for a further meeting with me later this month, and I look forward to speaking to you then.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

CHRISTINA MCKELVIE

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