

## **ANNEX**

### **REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION**

#### An exemption applies

An exemption under section(s) 38(1)(b) (personal information) of FOISA applies to some of the information you have requested. This is because the information requested contains personal data of a third party, i.e. the names, contact details and e-mail addresses of individuals, and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

This exemption is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption.

Exemptions under sections 30(b)(i) and 30(b)(ii) of FOISA (free and frank advice and exchange of views) apply to some of the information requested. Some of the information is exempt under Section 29(1)(a) as it relates to the formulation or development of government policy.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government. However there is a public interest in ensuring that policy officials can deliberate or explore policy matters freely until an agreed position is reached, in this case which outweighs a full release.

### **DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED**

Document 1: Email communication between SG officials (July 2022)

Document 2: Communication on SG internal Microsoft Teams channel (July 2022)

Document 3: Email communication from SG official to Deputy Director and DCMO (July 2022)

Document 4: Email communication between Communications and SG officials following a media enquiry (July 2022)

Document 5: Email communication between Communications and SG officials following a media enquiry (July 2022)

Document 6: Email communication between Communications and SG officials following a media enquiry (August 2022)

## Document 1

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 28 July 2022 14:07

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Cheers [Redacted 38(1)(b)] I've posted and separately reached out to GIS colleagues.

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 28 July 2022 14:07

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** Tavistock clinic closure

This news just broke – wouldn't be surprised if we get questions/media queries about the impact in Scotland. Maybe worth posting in the network Team.

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

[NHS to close Tavistock child gender identity clinic - BBC News](#)

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

*For urgent queries try calling me on MS Teams or [Redacted 38(1)(b)]. Please note, I work in this role Monday – Thursday and do domestic/caring work on Fridays. My inbox is not monitored in my absence. If I'm emailing early or late that's how I balance my commitments, I don't expect a reply at those times.*

**Document 2 : Microsoft Teams – Scottish Government Policy Teams – relevant excerpts from conversation chain**

[28/07 14:08] [Redacted 38(1)(b)]

[NHS to close Tavistock child gender identity clinic - BBC News](#)

NHS to close Tavistock child gender identity clinic

It follows criticism of England's only children's gender identity clinic in an independent review.

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

[28/07 14:08] [Redacted 38(1)(b)]

This just broke. Our strategic lead has suggested we might get media inquiries about the Impact in Scotland

[28/07 14:45] [Redacted 38(1)(b)]

Thanks [Redacted 38(1)(b)] we are aware.

### Document 3

**From:** Steedman N (Nicola) (DCMO) <Nicola.Steedman@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 28 July 2022 17:11  
**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Deputy Chief Medical Officers <[DCMO@gov.scot](mailto:DCMO@gov.scot)>; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: NHS England announcement - Tavistock clinic - 28/07/22

Thanks [Redacted 38(1)(b)] – agree entirely that this is likely to throw up some queries which will come our way.

[Redacted - 30(b)(ii)]

With warm regards,

Nicola.

*Professor Nicola Steedman*

*Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Scottish Government  
Honorary Professor, Glasgow Caledonian University*

[nicola.steedman@gov.scot](mailto:nicola.steedman@gov.scot)

[Redacted(38(1)(b))]

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 28 July 2022 16:16  
**To:** MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Steedman N (Nicola) (DCMO) <[Nicola.Steedman@gov.scot](mailto:Nicola.Steedman@gov.scot)>; Deputy Chief Medical Officers <[DCMO@gov.scot](mailto:DCMO@gov.scot)>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** NHS England announcement - Tavistock clinic - 28/07/22

Karen,

An email to highlight ongoing media interest in a NHS England announcement today. NHSE have announced that their nationally commissioned gender identity clinical service for under 18s - based within Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust ('Tavistock') - is due to be closed early 2023 and replaced with two new centres. This is an initial step to move to a regionally commissioned model of service delivery in the longer term. A number of outlets have picked up this story [NHS to close Tavistock child gender identity clinic - BBC News](#) We expect queries to be put to SG around this.

NHSE have taken this step following advice and findings set out by a February interim report of the NHSE commissioned Cass Review, as well as following up meetings with the Review to inform their decision making process.

[Redacted: out of scope] and section 29(1)(a)]

Happy to discuss/provide further briefing around this. Copying DCMO for awareness.

[Redacted - section 30(b)(i)]

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

Gender Identity and Healthcare Access | Health Improvement Division | Scottish  
Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Tel: [Redacted 38(1)(b)] or MS Teams

## DOCUMENT 4 – Media Enquiry

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)] on behalf of Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 17:18

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport; Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care

**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; Communications Health & Social Care; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government; [redacted]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; News Desk; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Deputy Chief Medical Officers; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government

**Subject:** RE: line to clear - tavitock closure /cass report - freelance/Times

Hi [Redacted 38(1)(b)],

Miss Todd is content, thanks.

Kind regards,

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted 38(1)(b)] Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP

Scottish Government, Room 1.E.10 St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel: [Redacted(38(1)(b)) ]

E-mail: CabSecHSC@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 17:07

**To:** Minister for Public Health, Women's Health & Sport  
<MinisterPHWHS@gov.scot>; Minister for Mental Wellbeing & Social Care  
<MinisterMWSC@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Health & Social Care;  
Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government; [Redacted  
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>; [Redacted  
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot (Communications); News Desk;  
[Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [redacted]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
(Justice) ; [redacted]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted  
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ;  
[Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; Deputy Chief Medical Officers; [Redacted  
38(1)(b)]@gov.scot (Comms)Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser); Nicolson S  
(Stuart) (Special Adviser); Mackintosh E (Emily); Cabinet Secretary for Health and  
Social Care; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government;  
Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>;  
Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E  
(Emily) <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; Cabinet  
Secretary for Health and Social Care <CabSecHSC@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary  
for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>

**Subject:** line to clear - tavistock closure /cass report - freelance/Times

Health PO – grateful for a Minister’s consideration of the below, pls

**\*\*Copying Social Justice Cab Sec/PO for awareness\*\***

On the back of yesterday’s Tavistock closure announcement, a number of outlets seek comment on any SG action. Queries in full below for awareness.

We’ve discussed with officials and SpAds, and propose the same line. Grateful for clearance.

Thanks

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We recognise the need to provide the best possible care for young people questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender dysphoria.

“As we have previously stated, we will closely consider the findings of the Cass Review within the context of NHS Scotland services as part of our broader commitment to improve access to, and delivery of, NHS gender identity services.”

**BACKGROUND**

In December 2021, the Scottish Government published a Framework for NHS gender identity service improvement. This was accompanied by an announcement of £9 million over 3 years to support this work, with £2 million allocated in 2022/23.

As set out in this Framework, the Scottish Government has committed to support the establishment of a nationally commissioned young person's gender identity service.

#### TIMES query

given the decision to close the Tavistock Clinic Gender Identity Service in London following the publication of the interim Cass Report, what is the SG view on this and on whether there are implications for similar services - such as those run by the Sandyford Clinic in Glasgow - particularly related to the prescription of gender blocking drugs to children? Are any reviews into the current provision of services for gender dysphoric children expected?

#### Freelance query

Following news that the GIDS unit in England is to be closed amid fears over its treatment of trans children can the Scottish Government confirm whether or not it is to take on board any of the findings of the Cass Report and learn from the issues it raises?

Dr Cass said the model used in England was not safe for children and young people.

So will the Scottish Government now reappraise its approach to transgender services and take a hard look at the Sandyford Clinic with a view to implementing findings of the Cass report?

Will the Scottish Government be implementing a similar inquiry into gender services for young people?

#### Sunday Times query

Following the decision to close the Tavistock gender identity clinic in London, Women's groups are calling for the Scottish government to review practices at the Sandyford clinic in Glasgow including the use of puberty blockers for teenagers. They have written the health secretary Humza Yousaf asking him to urgently address issues at the clinic following the Scottish government's continued stance of ignoring the Cass review into gender identity services for children and young people in England. They want the health authorities to recall all former patients of Sandyford Young People's clinic for specialised review and to close down Sandyford YP and undertake to mirror service provision to that in England to ensure high standards of care are met for gender-distressed children.

Dear Mr Yousaf, Ms Somerville and Ms Haughey,

Cass Interim Report: Independent review of gender identity services for children and young people – Implications for Scotland

As you will be aware, the Westminster Health Secretary has announced an urgent inquiry into gender hormone treatment for vulnerable children, stating that the system is “failing children”.<sup>1</sup> Mr Javid was particularly alarmed at the pressures on staff to adopt an unquestioning affirmative approach to transitioning and is planning an overhaul of how health service staff deal with under-18s who present with gender distress.

We welcome this intervention as the responsible course of action following a series of legal actions by whistleblowers<sup>2</sup> and a NICE report<sup>3</sup> highlighting serious concerns with the low quality of evidence for both GnRH agonists (puberty blockers) and cross-sex hormones. The recently published interim report<sup>4</sup> by Dr Hilary Cass, who was commissioned by NHS England to investigate child gender services, was damning, finding the Tavistock children’s clinic not a safe or viable long-term option for children. The politicising of a childhood condition and treatment based on ideology rather than facts and evidence has led to numerous children being harmed irreversibly by the medical profession.

It would be foolish to think this situation is confined to England. Many countries, including Scotland, follow the same treatment protocol for gender-distressed children, although following recent reviews some, including Sweden,<sup>5</sup> Finland<sup>6</sup> and France<sup>7</sup> have now severely restricted use of medical treatments in preference for psychotherapy.

The Care Quality Commission deemed Tavistock, the London gender clinic for children, “inadequate” and criticised it for deficient record keeping,<sup>8</sup> but at least it held information on the ratio of male to female patients, the number and age of those prescribed puberty blockers, and noted the disproportionately high rates of patients with autistic traits. The counterpart clinic Sandyford in Glasgow can give no such information,<sup>9</sup> in fact it is unable to even ascertain if it is following the pattern of a reversal in mainly male patients to a 75% female one, for the simple reason that it permits children to choose, or omit, the sex recorded on their medical files.<sup>10</sup> NHS Scotland also had to correct a Freedom of Information release and eventually disclose that 51 girls had been referred for elective double mastectomies.<sup>11</sup> Both clinics have failed to conduct longitudinal studies or provide care for detransitioners who were mis-diagnosed, many of whom will attest to being fast-tracked into hormone treatment and surgery when good mental health care was more appropriate to address underlying issues.

Our recent Freedom of Information response shows a rapidly increasing and disproportionate number of gender-distressed children in Scotland – the referral rates have grown fifteen-fold in six years<sup>12</sup> and 1,254 children are either receiving treatment or are awaiting a first appointment<sup>13</sup> – almost twice the expected number given the relative population size with England, which

has a comparable figure of 7,100.<sup>14</sup>

A crisis point has surely been reached when concerned GPs, unable to get answers to straightforward questions from their health board or NHS Scotland, feel they have to write to a national newspaper outlining their worries that referring children to a gender clinic will actually harm, rather than help them.<sup>15</sup> The political climate in Scotland is such that doctors who follow best therapeutic evidence rather than affirmation of a trans identity and medical treatment risk litigation for “transphobia”.

In January 2021 the then Cabinet Secretary for Health said “We do not look to duplicate the work of the [Cass] review in Scotland and will closely consider the findings of the review when they become available”.<sup>16</sup> Having chosen not to undertake the necessary and fundamental work to analyse the evidence and determine the best treatments, it is wholly incumbent on the Scottish Government to take heed of the outcomes and advice of those who have.

However, the Government has instead forged ahead with a £2 million allocation of funds this year, primarily aimed at addressing waiting times<sup>17</sup> and an update to the Gender Reassignment Protocol (GRP) is also underway.<sup>18</sup> In our view, both these projects must be halted and reassessed in light of the interim Cass report. The GRP update is looking to follow the new WPATH guidelines<sup>19</sup> which are not based on evidence, follow an affirmation-only model and now also seem to incorporate eunuch as a gender identity<sup>20</sup> – something we hope the Scottish Government does not wish to introduce into our schools. There is little point cutting waiting lists to allow quicker access to a service which has been found to be clinically flawed and harmful to children. It would be irresponsible and negligent of the Scottish Government to continue down this path. Dr Cass concludes that “A fundamentally different service model is needed which is more in line with other paediatric provision”.

Of course, the pathway for children confused about gender is set long before they reach Sandyford’s door, in a large part due to the Scottish Government’s irresponsible policies in schools which advocate affirmation-only.<sup>21</sup> Political lobbying groups such as LGBT Youth are introducing material telling young children they can change sex, and this is reinforced by teachers who have received training from the same groups – none of which have medical or educational expertise. Pupils who are confused about gender are receiving the message that there is something wrong with their body that needs to be fixed and teachers are unquestioningly “socially transitioning” pupils, often changing names and pronouns behind their parents backs. As Dr Cass states, these are not neutral interventions, and are being done without medical oversight and are incredibly damaging to our young people.

It is imperative that political impartiality should be reinstated in schools and lobbying groups not permitted to continue introducing unscientific beliefs to children, especially organisations that have already been found by Scottish Ministers to have introduced school guidance which was “not legal”.<sup>22</sup> It would be helpful if the Government would issue a message similar to that by the Department of Education which states harmful stereotypes should not be

reinforced and no inferences should be drawn about a gender identity from a child's personality or preference for certain clothes or activities, and nor should schools work with external groups that produce such material.<sup>23</sup>

We hope you agree that there is ample evidence in the interim report that is alarming and needs immediate attention, and appreciate the implications for the upcoming plans to legislate for banning conversion therapy and to make Gender Recognition Certificates (GRC) available for under-18s. The joint submission from Stonewall and others<sup>24</sup> is of the opinion that therapy for gender-distressed children should be focussed on understanding and learning to accept their stated gender identity – otherwise it will be captured as conversion therapy. This is contrary to evidenced therapeutic practice and Cass points out there are many causes of a child's distress and many pathways to a number of outcomes, only one of which will be an adult trans identity. Counsellors and therapists should be able to fully explore issues and help a child feel comfortable with their body, without any pressure of possible criminalisation. Even now concerns have been raised about the chilling effect of the Memorandum of Understanding<sup>25</sup> and the likelihood of therapeutic outcomes being compromised by early state affirmation by way of a GRC,<sup>26</sup> on what may turn out to be a transient trans identity.

We would welcome a meeting for further discussion and look forward to hearing what steps will be implemented to urgently address the issues raised.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted 38(1)(b), [Redacted 38(1)(b) and [Redacted 38(1)(b)  
[Redacted 38(1)(b), For Women Scotland

[Redacted(38(1)(b))] Newsdesk  
Scottish Government  
Ext [Redacted(38(1)(b))]  
[Redacted(38(1)(b))]

## DOCUMENT 5 – Media Enquiry

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 13:53

**To:** Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser); Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser); Ingebrigtsen R (Ross); Mackintosh E (Emily)

**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Health & Social Care; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot (Communications); News Desk; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Deputy Chief Medical Officers; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot (Comms)

**Subject:** SPAD view - tavistock closure /cass report - freelance/Times

Thanks [Redacted(38(1)(b)) ]. Hi SpAds,

Following yesterday's announcement that Tavistock centre will close, The Times and a freelancer ask if SG will look again at the Cass Report. We've discussed with officials. Grateful for views on suggested lines.

Thanks

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

TIMES query

given the decision to close the Tavistock Clinic Gender Identity Service in London following the publication of the interim Cass Report, what is the SG view on this and on whether there are implications for similar services - such as those run by the Sandyford Clinic in Glasgow - particularly related to the prescription of gender blocking drugs to children? Are any reviews into the current provision of services for gender dysphoric children expected?

LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“We recognise the need to provide the best possible care for young people questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender dysphoria.

“As we have previously stated, we will closely consider the findings of the Cass Review within the context of NHS Scotland services as part of our broader commitment to improve access to, and delivery of, NHS gender identity services.”

**BACKGROUND**

In December 2021, the Scottish Government published a Framework for NHS gender identity service improvement. This was accompanied by an [announcement](#) of £9 million over 3 years to support this work, with £2 million allocated in 2022/23.

As set out in this Framework, the Scottish Government has committed to support the establishment of a nationally commissioned young person's gender identity service.

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

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 13:39

**To:** [Redacted]; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot ; Communications Health & Social Care >; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government >; [[edacted]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>; [redacted]@gov.scot; News Desk; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot (Justice); [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: media query - tavistock closure /cass report - freelance

Thanks [Redacted 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

Gender Identity and Healthcare Access | Health Improvement Division | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Tel: [Redacted 38(1)(b)] or MS Teams

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 13:25

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Health & Social Care >; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government >; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)> ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ;

[redacted]@gov.scot (Communications); News Desk; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot (Justice); [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: media query - tavistock closure /cass report - freelance

Thanks, [Redacted 38(1)(b)].

[Redacted - section 30(b)(i)]

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 13:10

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ;

[redacted]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; Communications Health & Social Care >; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government >; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>; News Desk; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot (Justice); [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: media query - tavistock closure /cass report - freelance

Hi [Redacted 38(1)(b)],

[Redacted - section 30(b)(i)]

**[Redacted(38(1)(b)) ]**

Gender Identity and Healthcare Access | Health Improvement Division | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
Tel: [Redacted(38(1)(b)) ] or MS Teams

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 12:32

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Health & Social Care >; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government >; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot (Communications); News Desk; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: media query - tavistock closure /cass report - freelance

Thanks for widening the copylist. As discussed with [Redacted 38(1)(b)], we have another media query on this from The Times.

given the decision to close the Tavistock Clinic Gender Identity Service in London following the publication of the interim Cass Report, what is the SG view on this and on whether there are implications for similar services - such as those run by the Sandyford Clinic in Glasgow - particularly related to the prescription of gender blocking drugs to children?

Are any reviews into the current provision of services for gender dysphoric children expected?

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 11:55

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Health & Social Care >; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government >; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [redacted]@gov.scot (Communications); News Desk; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: media query - tavisstock closure /cass report - freelance

Thanks [Redacted 38(1)(b)] we will respond

[Redacted 38(1)(b)] | Policy Adviser | Gender Identity and Healthcare Access | Health Improvement Division| Scottish Government

**Mobile:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 11:52

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Gender Identity and Healthcare Access [genderidentityhealth@gov.scot](mailto:genderidentityhealth@gov.scot); [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Communications Health & Social Care >; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government >; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; News Desk; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: media query - tavisstock closure /cass report - freelance

Expanding copy list

Thanks,  
[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

**Gender and LGBTI Equality Policy Officer**

Directorate for Equality, Inclusion & Human Rights | Scottish Government

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 29 July 2022 11:46

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Gender Identity and Healthcare Access [genderidentityhealth@gov.scot](mailto:genderidentityhealth@gov.scot); [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; Communications Health & Social Care >; Communications Social Justice, Housing & Local Government >; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; News Desk

**Subject:** media query - tavisstock closure /cass report - freelance

Hi all,

Following yesterday's announcement that Tavistock centre will close, a freelancer trying to pitch stories to the national media in Scotland asks if SG will look again at the Cass Report.

Query in full below, along with the line we issued to the same journalist when the Cass Report was published.

Is there anything to add or amend? I note it references interim report.

Happy to discuss if preferred.

Thanks

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

#### QUERY

Following news that the GIDS unit in England is to be closed amid fears over its treatment of trans children can the Scottish Government confirm whether or not it is to take on board any of the findings of the Cass Report and learn from the issues it raises?

Dr Cass said the model used in England was not safe for children and young people.

So will the Scottish Government now reappraise its approach to transgender services and take a hard look at the Sandyford Clinic with a view to implementing findings of the Cass report?

Will the Scottish Government be implementing a similar inquiry into gender services for young people?

Lines issued 18 May

[redacted - section 30(b)(i)]

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

Newsdesk

Scottish Government

Ext [Redacted 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

## DOCUMENT 6 – MEDIA ENQUIRY

**From:** Mackintosh E (Emily) <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 05 August 2022 17:56  
**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** News Desk ; MacNee K (Karen) <Karen.MacNee@gov.scot> ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SPAD view - Sandyford patient calls for closure - Times  
**Importance:** High

These look fine – thanks.

Emily

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 05 August 2022 17:52  
**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** News Desk; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;; MacNee K (Karen) <Karen.MacNee@gov.scot>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; ; [redacted]@gov.scot; ; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;  
**Importance:** High

Spads – keen to get this up to PO shortly, are you happy with the lines?

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;  
**Sent:** 05 August 2022 17:22  
**To:** Gollan J (Jennie) <Jennie.Gollan@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) (Special Adviser) <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Mackintosh E (Emily) <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** News Desk [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <Karen.MacNee@gov.scot>; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** SPAD view - Sandyford patient calls for closure - Times

Thanks for the swift turnaround, [Redacted(38(1)(b))].

Hi SpAds,

A patient who detransitioned is calling for Sandyford to be closed. Officials advise the patient has told of her experiences and views previously.

NHSGGC lines below for awareness.

Grateful for views on suggested SG lines – these have issued previously, with an additional background note in red.

Thanks

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

## QUERY

We are intending to run a story in tomorrow's paper regarding [Redacted 38(1)(b)] . [Redacted 38(1)(b)] says she wants to see the Sandyford young person's gender services closed down, following the announcement that the gender identity development service (Gids) at the Tavistock clinic would be closed.

She had treatment from the Sandyford adult services gender team in [Redacted 38(1)(b)] .

She claims that, despite having access to her medical records, specialists ignored her depression, anxiety, self-harm, alcohol abuse and suicidal ideation, instead focusing on her gender identity crisis.

She says Sandyford immediately affirmed her.

Within a matter of months, she says she was put on irreversible cross-sex hormones.

[Redacted 38(1)(b)] says the fact that she had no gender issues at all until she was in her late teens should have been a red flag to those at Sandyford, but it wasn't.

Following what [Redacted 38(1)(b)] claims was just three or four appointments, lasting around five months, she was prescribed and began injecting testosterone.

Every five months she would be invited in for appointments at the Sandyford, where specialists would check her blood pressure and hormone levels.

She says that she had a bit of small talk with the specialist, but it was nothing like counselling or therapy sessions.

She was then sent to a hospital in Manchester for a double mastectomy in [Redacted 38(1)(b)] .

It was a little later than the clinic had intended because of the sheer volume of trans men they had been sending down there, [Redacted 38(1)(b)] claims.

Following the surgery, [Redacted 38(1)(b)] said she went through her own internal crisis and by early 2018, [Redacted] was aware that she fully regretted transitioning to a man.

She said she had not been back to the Sandyford clinic since before her mastectomy in [Redacted 38(1)(b)] . She has now de-transitioned and is back living as [Redacted 38(1)(b)] .

She wants Sandyford's young people's gender services shut down because she claims it is just setting kids up to be fast-tracked through transition.

NHSGGC lines

"Our Gender Identity Service is modelled and informed by WPATH guidelines, shaped by existing evidence and similar in operation to other gender clinics across Europe.

"Patients attending Sandyford's Gender Identity Service undergo a full assessment by a multi-disciplinary team of psychiatrists, sexual health doctors, psychology and occupational therapists.

"The evaluation takes multiple engagements over an extended period of time to ensure patients fully understand the process, are aware of all implications and are enabled to make fully informed choices.

"While we can't go into individual patient details, we can confirm all patients undergo this extended evaluation.

"We're sorry to hear [Redacted 38(1)(b)] feels that she didn't receive adequate support and would be happy to discuss her care with her directly."

## LINES

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"We recognise the need to provide the best possible care for young people questioning their gender identity or experiencing gender dysphoria.

"As we have previously stated, we will closely consider the findings of the Cass Review within the context of NHS Scotland services as part of our broader commitment to improve access to, and delivery of, NHS gender identity services."

## Background

In December 2021, the Scottish Government published the NHS gender identity services: strategic action framework. The framework describes how the Scottish Government will fund work to address waiting times, new multidisciplinary care and support for people waiting to access services. Other actions include developing national standards for services, improving data collection and supporting additional research on long term health outcomes for those accessing gender identity healthcare.

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 05 August 2022 17:04

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** News Desk; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; MacNee K (Karen) <[Karen.MacNee@gov.scot](mailto:Karen.MacNee@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: urgent media query - Sandyford patient hits out - Times

Hi [Redacted 38(1)(b)],

[redacted - section 30(b)(i)]

[redacted - section 30(b)(i)]

Best wishes,  
[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

Head of Health Equity and Equalities Unit | Health Improvement Division | Scottish Government | St  
Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Tel: [Redacted 38(1)(b)]

### Health Improvement's three top tips for wellbeing at work:

1. 50-minute meetings with 10 mins breaks between
2. Take a lunch break and walk
3. Regular 1:1s with wellbeing check-ins

**From:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

**Sent:** 05 August 2022 16:35

**To:** [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** News Desk; [Redacted 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** urgent media query - Sandyford patient hits out - Times

Hi all,

With apols for v tight turnaround on this, grateful for views on SG position on the below. Our recent lines re Tavistock also below, but it essentially asks for SG to comment on one patient – should we be redirecting elsewhere?

Happy to discuss if preferred.

The journalist's deadline is 6pm, so we'll need to turn this around v quickly to allow for clearance.

Thanks

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]

QUERY

We are intending to run a story in tomorrow's paper regarding [Redacted 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted 38(1)(b)] says she wants to see the Sandyford young person's gender services closed down, following the announcement that the gender identity development service (Gids) at the Tavistock clinic would be closed.

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She says that she had a bit of small talk with the specialist, but it was nothing like counselling or therapy sessions.

She was then sent to a hospital in Manchester for a double mastectomy in [Redacted 38(1)(b)] .

It was a little later than the clinic had intended because of the sheer volume of trans men they had been sending down there, [Redacted 38(1)(b)] claims.

Following the surgery, [Redacted 38(1)(b)] said she went through her own internal crisis and by early 2018, [Redacted 38(1)(b)] was aware that she fully regretted transitioning to a man.

She said she had not been back to the Sandyford clinic since before her mastectomy in [Redacted 38(1)(b)]. She has now de-transitioned and is back living as [Redacted 38(1)(b)] .

She wants Sandyford's young people's gender services shut down because she claims it is just setting kids up to be fast-tracked through transition.

[Redacted – out of scope]

[Redacted 38(1)(b)]  
Newsdesk  
Scottish Government  
Ext [Redacted 38(1)(b)]  
[Redacted 38(1)(b)]