

Debate Pack

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LGBT+ History Month (2024)

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1

Background

A general debate on LGBT+ History Month is scheduled for Thursday 7 March 2024 in Westminster Hall. The debate will be led by Elliott Colburn MP and Dame Angela Eagle MP.

LGBT+ History Month was founded in 2004 and first celebrated in February 2005, within 18 months of the repeal of Section 28 in England and Wales. The month was founded by Sue Sanders and Paul Patrick of [Schools Out](#), an LGBT education organisation.

The 2024 theme is [Medicine: #UnderTheScope](#). The organisers want to celebrate “LGBT+ peoples’ contribution to the field of Medicine and Healthcare both historically and today.” The theme also aims to highlight “the history of the LGBT+ community’s experience of receiving healthcare which has been extremely complicated” and the inequalities in healthcare LGBT+ people continue to face.

2

Statistics on the LGBT+ population

2.1

2021 census data

The 2021 census asked respondents about LGBT+ identities for the first time. The questions were optional and only asked of people aged 16 or over.

The census is carried out separately in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with results published separately.

England and Wales

The census in England and Wales asked respondents separate questions about sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published its first findings on sexual orientation in its publication [Sexual orientation, England and Wales: Census 2021](#).

92.5% of respondents answered the question on sexual orientation, while 7.5% chose not to. In total, **1.5 million people (3.2% of people aged 16+)** identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or another sexual orientation other than straight or heterosexual. The ONS uses the acronym ‘LGB+’ for this group.

The table below shows a more detailed breakdown.

LGB+ sexual orientations in England and Wales		
2021 census respondents aged 16 and over		
Sexual orientation	Number of people	% of population aged 16+
Gay or Lesbian	748,000	1.54%
Bisexual	624,000	1.28%
Pansexual	48,000	0.10%
Asexual	28,000	0.06%
Queer	15,000	0.03%
All other sexual orientations	75,000	0.15%

Source: ONS, [Sexual orientation, England and Wales: Census 2021](#), 6 January 2023

The ONS has published further analysis of census data on LGB+ people in England and Wales:

- [Sexual orientation: age and sex, England and Wales](#) looks at the age and sex breakdown of the LGB+ population.

- [Sexual orientation, further personal characteristics, England and Wales](#) looks at disability, health, ethnicity, religion and employment.

The census asked a separate question about gender identity: “Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?”. 94.0% of the population aged 16 and over answered the question.

262,000 people (0.5% of the population aged 16+) answered “No” to this question, meaning that they had a different gender identity from their sex registered at birth.

Respondents who answered “No” had the option to write in their gender identity. Of these:

- 118,000 (0.24% of the population aged 16+) answered “No” but did not provide a write-in response
- 48,000 (0.10%) identified as a trans man
- 48,000 (0.10%) identified as a trans woman
- 30,000 (0.06%) identified as non-binary
- 18,000 (0.04%) wrote in a different gender identity¹

[The ONS published research into the quality of its gender identity statistics in November 2023](#). It concluded that there are “higher levels of uncertainty” in its estimates of gender identity compared with other census topics. It explained:

There are some patterns in the data that are consistent with, but do not conclusively demonstrate, some respondents not interpreting the question as intended; given other sources of uncertainty, not least the impact of question non-response, we cannot say with certainty whether the census estimates are more likely to be an overestimate or an underestimate of the total number of trans people aged over 16 years in England and Wales.²

Northern Ireland

The 2021 census in Northern Ireland asked about sexual orientation but not gender identity. 92.1% of respondents answered the question.

In total, 31,600 people identified with an LGB+ sexual orientation (2.1% of the population aged 16 or over).

Of these, 17,700 (1.2%) identified as gay or lesbian, 11,300 (0.7%) identified as bisexual, and 2,600 with another sexual orientation (0.2%).

¹ ONS, [Gender identity, England and Wales: Census 2021](#), 6 January 2023

² ONS, [Quality of Census 2021 gender identity data](#), 8 November 2023

Further data is available in a [statistical bulletin published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(NISRA\) \(PDF\)](#).³

Scotland

Scotland's census was delayed by a year because of the Covid-19 pandemic, which means results have not yet been published. The census asked about sexual orientation, and about whether respondents identified as trans.⁴

Constituency and local area data

The Commons Library dashboard [Constituency data: LGBT+ people, 2021 census](#) has constituency data for England and Wales on sexual orientation and gender identity.

A Library Insight, [2021 census: What do we know about the LGBT+ population?](#) has data for smaller areas.

Constituency and local data for Northern Ireland is available from NISRA's [2021 Census Flexible Table Builder](#).

2.2

Survey estimates for the UK

Because census results aren't yet available for the whole UK, the only UK-wide statistics on sexual orientation are from the Annual Population Survey, a representative survey of UK households. These estimates are subject to some uncertainty because they are based on a survey sample.

The most recent estimates are for 2022. The ONS estimates that:

An estimated 3.3% of the UK population aged 16 years and over identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) in 2022, a continued increase from 2.1% in 2017.⁵

The ONS bulletin [Sexual orientation, UK: 2021 and 2022](#) also has data on the age, sex, partnership status, ethnicity and socio-economic status of lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

There are no UK-wide statistics on gender identity.

³ NISRA, [Statistical bulletin – sexual orientation](#), 21 March 2023

⁴ Scotland's Census 2022, [Household questionnaire](#), 11 July 2022

⁵ ONS, [Sexual orientation, UK: 2021 and 2022](#), 27 September 2023

3 1533-2013: UK legislation and the rights of LGBT+ peoples

The following timeline provides an overview of the history of UK legislation and the rights of LGBT+ peoples from 1533 up to the passing of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act in 2013.

1533: The Buggery Act

During the reign of Henry VIII, Parliament passed ‘An acte for the punyshement of the vice of buggerye’. The British Library provides the following summary of its provisions:

The act did not explicitly target sex between men, as it also applied to sodomy between men and women and a person with an animal. Convictions between men for sodomy were by far the most common and well publicised.⁶

Individuals convicted under this Act faced the death penalty. In 1540 Walter Hungerford became the first individual to be executed under its terms.⁷

Anal sex remained a capital offence until the passing of the [Offences Against the Person Act 1861](#). Section 61 of this Act did not remove the 1533 offence but provided that those convicted could be sentenced to “Penal Servitude for Life or for any Term not less than Ten Years”.⁸

1885: The Criminal Law Amendment Act

In 1885 Henry Labouchere, the then Liberal MP for Northampton, [introduced Section 11 to the Criminal Law Amendment Act](#). This replaced previous provisions that mentioned sodomy with a broader reference to “any act of gross indecency with another male person” committed in “public or private”.⁹ This also applied to an individual who “procures or attempts to procure the commission” of said acts.¹⁰ Gross indecency was not defined in the Act.

Under this Act those found guilty were liable to “be imprisoned for any term not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour.” Oscar Wilde (convicted in 1895) and Alan Turing (convicted in 1953) were both imprisoned under this Act. Alan Turing was given a royal pardon in 2013.

In August 1921, Sir Ernest Wild, then Conservative MP for Upton, F. A. Macquisten, then Conservative MP for Glasgow Springburn, and Howard Gritten, then Conservative MP for The Hartlepoons, sought to introduce an

⁶ British Library, [The Buggery Act 1533](#) (accessed 1 February 2023)

⁷ English Heritage, [Walter Hungerford and the ‘Buggery Act’](#) (accessed 1 February 2023)

⁸ [Offences Against the Person Act 1861](#), s61

⁹ UK Parliament, [1885 Labouchere Amendment](#) (accessed 1 February 2023)

¹⁰ As above

amendment to Section 11 of the 1885 Act. This amendment aimed to extend the pre-existing provisions to “gross indecency between female persons”.¹¹ The amendment did not pass.

[Section 164 of the Policing and Crime Bill 2017, the so-called ‘Turing’s law’](#), provided statutory pardons to people convicted under the Acts of 1533, section 61 of the 1861 Act and section 11 of the 1885 Act.¹²

1967: Sexual Offences Act

By 1954, the number of men arrested under the Criminal Law Amendment Act stood at around 1000 per year.¹³ Many of the arrests in the post-war period were of high-profile individuals and the trials attracted significant media interest.

In response, the Government announced an enquiry into potentially reforming the law in this area. In 1957, the Report of the Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution, known as the Wolfenden Report, was released. It recommended that homosexual acts between two consenting adults, aged 21 or over, should no longer be criminalised. In 1960 a Bill attempting to put the report’s recommendations into law was voted down by 213 to 99.¹⁴

[Section 1 \(2\) of the Sexual Offences Act, passed in 1967](#), stated that “a homosexual act in private shall not be an offence provided that the parties consent thereto and have attained the age of 21 years”.¹⁵

Its provisions were brought into force in Scotland through the [Criminal Justice \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#), and in Northern Ireland through the [Homosexual Offences \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1982](#).

Offences such as gross indecency, soliciting, or importuning remained, and criminalised interactions that would have been legal between a man and woman. Peter Tatchell’s analysis of gross indecency convictions in this period suggests that convictions rose from 420 in 1966 to 1,711 in 1974.¹⁶ Section 1(2) also did not apply to individuals in the merchant navy or armed forces.

The Wolfenden Report’s evidence sessions included references to lesbianism.¹⁷ However, the Act’s remit extended solely to homosexuality.

¹¹ HC Deb (5th series) 4 August 1921 vol 145 cc1799-1807

¹² [Policing and Crime Bill 2017](#), s164

¹³ UK Parliament, [Wolfenden Report](#) (accessed 1 February 2023)

¹⁴ [HC Deb 29 June 1960 vol 625 c1811](#)

¹⁵ [Sexual Offences Act 1967](#), s1(2)

¹⁶ Peter Tatchell, [Don’t fall for the myth that it’s 50 years since we decriminalised homosexuality](#), 23 May 2017

¹⁷ Caroline Derry, [Lesbians and the law: the Wolfenden Report and same-sex desire between women](#), 27 February 2020

1970: Judgment in *Corbett vs Corbett (otherwise Ashley)*

In September 1963, Arthur Corbett married April Ashley. April Ashley had undergone gender reassignment surgery in 1960. The couple divorced in December 1963 and in 1967 Arthur Corbett filed suit for the marriage to be annulled “because the respondent, at the time of the ceremony, was a person of the male sex”.¹⁸ He also alleged that the marriage had never been consummated.

Lord Justice Ormrod heard the case in the High Court of England and Wales from November to December 1969. Both sides called three medical experts. In his judgment of February 1970, Lord Justice Ormrod stated that the question of the case was what is “meant by the word ‘woman’ in the context of a marriage”, rather than “the ‘legal sex’ of the respondent at large”.¹⁹ He found that “the respondent is not a woman for the purposes of marriage but is a biological male and has been so since birth”.²⁰

To reach this conclusion Lord Justice Ormrod put forward three criteria to determine sex in the context of marriage: chromosomal, gonadal and genital. These so-called ‘Corbett criteria’ established a precedent for legal sex that, to quote Stonewall, “a person’s sex cannot legally be changed from that which is assigned at birth”.²¹

The Corbett criteria would continue to be applied in cases outside of the context of marriage. For instance, in 1980 Brendan Rees, who had undergone gender reassignment surgery in 1974, instructed his solicitor to formally request the alteration of his birth certificate to show his sex as male. The Registrar General refused this on the grounds of the Corbett criteria. [In October 1986, the European Court of Human Rights found that this decision](#) had not violated Mr Rees’ rights under Article 8 (the right to respect for family and private life) and Article 12 (right to marry and start a family) of the European Convention on Human Rights.²²

1988: Local Government Act

[According to the British Social Attitudes surveys from the 1980s](#), this period saw a change in public attitudes towards same-sex relationships. In 1983, 50% of those surveyed agreed that “sexual relations between two adults of the same sex” were “always wrong”. By 1987, the figure had risen to 64%.

In 1983, a storybook for children, written by Susanne Bosche, was published in English entitled *Jenny lives with Eric and Martin*. The author decided to write

¹⁸ [Judgment Corbett v Corbett \(otherwise Ashley\)](#) (PDF), 2 February 1970, p2

¹⁹ As above, p.19

²⁰ As above, p.20

²¹ Stonewall, [Key dates for lesbian, gay, bi and trans equality](#) (accessed 1 February 2023)

²² European Court of Human Rights, [Case of Rees v. The United Kingdom](#), 17 October 1986

the book after becoming aware that many same-sex couples in Denmark had children and realising “that there was a need for a book for these children to identify with”.²³ In 1986 the book was found in the library of the Inner London Education Authority. The then Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker, described the book as “propaganda”.²⁴ The episode generated significant media interest.

Beginning in 1986, Lord Halsbury tabled a Bill entitled ‘An act to refrain local authorities from promoting homosexuality’. The 1987 election disrupted the passage of this Bill. In the same year, the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, stated in her speech to the Conservative Party Conference that children were being “cheated of a sound start in life” due to being “taught they have an inalienable right to be gay”.²⁵ On 2 December 1987 during the Committee stage for the Local Government Act 1987-88, the then Conservative MP for Spelthorne David Wilshire proposed similar provisions to those of Lord Halsbury’s previous Bill to be included [as Section 28 of the Local Government Act](#):

A local authority shall not—

(a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality;

(b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship.²⁶

Section 28 was met with large protests by LGBT+ groups. For instance, [on 23 May 1988 a group of lesbian activists disrupted a live news broadcast](#) at the BBC and in a [radio debate on the clause the actor Sir Ian McKellen came out as gay](#). He would subsequently co-found Stonewall as a lobbying group. Organisations such as the Arts Council also opposed the clause on the grounds of its potential usage as a method of censorship in the arts.

Section 28 would be repealed through the [Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2000](#), in Scotland, and the [Local Government Act 2003](#) in England and Wales. Section 28 did not apply to Northern Ireland. David Cameron, the then leader of the Conservative Party, [would apologise for the clause in July 2009](#).

1999: Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations

[The 1975 Sex Discrimination Act](#) introduced protections for men and women from discrimination and harassment on the grounds of sex in relation to

²³ Susanne Bosche, [Jenny, Eric, Martin...and me](#), 31 January 2000

²⁴ London School of Economics, [Section 28, three decades on: the legacy of a homophobic law through the LSE Library’s collection](#), 23 May 2018

²⁵ Margaret Thatcher, [Speech to Conservative Party Conference](#), 9 October 1987

²⁶ [Local Government Act 1988](#), s28

employment, training, education, goods and services, public functions and in housing. The Act did not provide specific protections for transgender people.

In 1997, in the case of *P v. S and Cornwall County Council*, [the European Court of Justice found that discrimination against a transgender person fell within the prohibition of sex discrimination in European law](#) (PDF). The [Sex Discrimination \(Gender Reassignment\) Regulations were introduced in 1999](#) to amend the 1975 Act to extend its protections to transgender people.

The provisions applied to those who intend to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone gender reassignment. These protections applied to discrimination in the areas of employment and vocational training. The regulations did not extend to Northern Ireland.

2000: Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act

In 1994 the then Conservative MP for South Derbyshire Edwina Currie, introduced an amendment that sought to lower the age of consent for homosexual acts, from 21 to 16 in line with that for heterosexual acts. This amendment was defeated and instead the gay male age of consent was lowered to 18.²⁷

In the same year Euan Sutherland, then 17 years old, had lodged a complaint against the UK in the European Court of Human Rights. Mr Sutherland's complaint was:

...that the fixing of the minimum age for lawful homosexual activities between men at 18, rather than 16 as for women, violated his right to respect for private life under Article 8 of the Convention and was discriminatory in breach of that Article taken in conjunction with Article 14.²⁸

The Government submitted to the European Court of Human Rights that it would bring forward legislation to equalise the age of consent.

Beginning in 1998, the House of Lords defeated the provision to change the age of consent to 16 on two occasions and the then Home Secretary Jack Straw used the Parliament Act to override the Lords before the measure was passed in November 2000.

On 30 November 2000, [the Sexual Offences \(Amendment\) Act](#) received Royal Assent. This reduced the age of consent for gay and bisexual men to 16 in England, Wales and Scotland, and 17 in Northern Ireland. In 2008, this would be set as 16 in Northern Ireland.

²⁷ The National Archives, [Equality of sexuality: The age of consent](#), 23 February 2022

²⁸ European Court of Human Rights, [Case of Sutherland v. the United Kingdom](#), 27 March 2001

2004: Gender Recognition Act

On 11 July 2002, the European Court of Human Rights delivered two judgments (*Christina Goodwin v. the United Kingdom* and *I. v. the United Kingdom*) which found that the UK had breached the rights of two transgender people under Articles 8 (right to respect for private life) and Article 12 (right to marry) of the European Convention on Human Rights. In the judgment of *I. v. the United Kingdom*, the court stated, in the legal language of the time, that:

In the previous cases from the United Kingdom, this Court has since 1986 emphasised the importance of keeping the need for appropriate legal measures under review having regard to scientific and societal developments (see references at paragraph 54). Most recently in the Sheffield and Horsham case in 1998, it observed that the respondent State had not yet taken any steps to do so despite an increase in the social acceptance of the phenomenon of transsexualism and a growing recognition of the problems with which transsexuals are confronted (cited above, § 60).²⁹

In April 2003, in another case, relating to the marriage of a transgender person (*Bellinger (FC) (Appellant) v. Bellinger*), [the House of Lords declared that section 11\(c\) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 was incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. Section 11 \(c\) states that marriages could be void on the grounds](#) “that the parties are not respectively male and female”.

[According to the Gender Recognition Act’s explanatory notes](#), as a result of these judgments, the then Government had obligations to “rectify these ongoing breaches” of the European Convention on Human Rights. Moreover, due to the judgment in the House of Lords, it was obliged to introduce legislation that, in the legal language of the time, would “enable transsexual people to marry in their new gender”.

To fulfil these obligations a draft Gender Recognition Bill was introduced in July 2003. The Bill enabled transgender adults to achieve legal recognition in their acquired gender and change their recorded sex on their birth certificate from male to female or vice versa. This legal recognition is dependent upon the issuing of a Gender Recognition Certificate by a Gender Recognition Panel. The Library’s February 2022 paper entitled [Gender Recognition Act reform: Consultation and outcome](#), provides the following summary of how this process operates:

In most cases, applicants must provide medical evidence of a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and details of any treatment received; evidence of living in their acquired gender for at least two years; and a statutory declaration that they will continue to do so permanently. There is no requirement for applicants to have undergone gender reassignment surgery or hormone treatment.³⁰

²⁹ European Union Court of Human Rights, *Case of I. v. the United Kingdom*, para 72

³⁰ House of Commons Library, [Gender Recognition Act reform: Consultation and outcome](#), 18 February 2022, p.5

The Act received Royal Assent in July 2004 and applies to the entirety of the UK.

2004: Civil Partnership Act

On 30 June 2003, the Government published a consultation paper, Civil Partnership – A framework for the legal recognition of same sex couples, outlining its proposals for a civil partnership registration scheme in England and Wales. The Civil Partnership Bill was introduced to the House of Lords in March 2004. On introducing the Bill, Jacqui Smith, the then Deputy Minister for Women and Equalities, stated that it “opens the way to respect, recognition and justice for those who have been denied it for too long.”³¹ Prior to this Bill, there was no mechanism for formally recognising a same-sex relationship, and couples had no recourse to the rights available to opposite-sex married couples.

The Act established a new legal relationship for same-sex couples. Couples who register as civil partners of each other can then access many of the legal rights and responsibilities to which married couples had previously solely been entitled. The Library’s 2004 paper [The Civil Partnership Bill \[HL\]: background and debate](#), provides the following summary of the rights and responsibilities that became available to those in civil partnerships:

Same-sex couples who enter a civil partnership would access a wide range of rights and responsibilities in many areas including property and financial arrangements; social security; children; housing and tenancies; employment and pension benefits; recognition under intestacy rules; life assurance; access to fatal accidents compensation; protection from domestic violence; and tax treatment.³²

The Act came into force on 5 December 2005 and the first civil partnership ceremony, [between Matthew Roche and Christopher Cramp at St Barnabas Hospice, would take place on the same day](#).

2010: Equality Act

Proposals for a [unified discrimination statute began in at least 1994](#) (PDF). The Government announced an Equalities Review on 25 February 2005; a Green paper on proposals for a single equality bill was published on 12 June 2007. In April 2009, the Equality Bill was introduced to the House of Commons. [The Bill’s explanatory notes stated that its two core aims were](#): “to harmonise discrimination law, and to strengthen the law to support progress on equality”.

³¹ Department of Trade and Industry, Landmark Bill for Same-Sex Couples Published, P/2004/129, 31 March 2004

³² House of Commons Library, [The Civil Partnership Bill \[HL\]: background and debate](#), 7 September 2004, p.3

Under this Act, sexual orientation and gender reassignment became two of the nine “protected characteristics” that are within the scope of the new unitary equality law regime.

The Act prohibits, among other things, the following forms of conduct in relation to “protected characteristics”: direct discrimination, gender reassignment discrimination on the grounds of absence from work, indirect discrimination, harassment, and victimisation.

The Equality Act received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010.

2013: Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act

In March 2012, [the Government Equalities Office published a consultation on “Equal Civil Marriage”](#) (PDF), which looked at how to enable same sex couples to marry. The consultation stated that no religious organisation would be obliged, or permitted, to conduct marriage ceremonies for same sex couples. The consultation received over 228,000 responses, together with 19 petitions. It was stated to be the largest response ever received for a Government consultation.

In December 2012, [the Government published its response to the consultation](#) (PDF). The response document confirmed the Government’s commitment to legislating for the introduction of civil marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples, stating: “We believe that by allowing same-sex couples to get married we are further strengthening the institution of marriage”.³³ The response also outlined that the Government would enable religious organisations that wished to perform same-sex ceremonies to ‘opt-in’ to the provisions, with no obligation to do so. The possible legislation would also provide legal protections for organisations that did not opt-in. Moreover, the Government stated that the legislation would enable couples to convert their civil partnerships into civil marriages. Finally, the response described proposals that would enable individuals to change their gender legally while remaining married, if both parties wished to do so.

[The Marriage \(Same Sex Couples\) Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on 24 January 2013](#). Broadly, the Bill aimed to amend pre-existing legislation so as to legislate for the points outlined in the Government’s consultation response.

[It received Royal Assent on 17 July 2013](#). The Act’s marriage provisions extended to England and Wales. In Scotland [the Marriage and Civil Partnership \(Scotland\) Bill](#) introduced the same provisions and was passed in February 2014. It was introduced in Northern Ireland through [the Northern](#)

³³ Government Equalities Office, [Equal marriage: The Government’s response](#) (PDF), December 2012, para 3.1

Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2019 and was implemented in 2020. The first ceremonies took place in England and Wales on 29 March 2014.

4 2014-2024: Recent History

4.1 Pardons and Disregards

Parliament has passed several Acts to address historical convictions for same sex offences. Previous convictions or cautions relating to same sex activity can be ‘disregarded’ from criminal record certificates and be pardoned, reflecting that such activity would no longer be criminal.

The [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) allows for disregard of convictions for same-sex sexual acts under section 12 or 13 the Sexual Offences Act 1956.³⁴ The [Policing and Crime Act 2017](#) allows those convictions that have been disregarded to be pardoned. This act also includes a provision to pardon those who died before the Act came into force.³⁵

The [Merchant Shipping \(Homosexual Conduct\) Act 2017](#) repealed sections 146 and 147 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, which allowed dismissal of crew from merchant ships on the grounds of homosexual acts.³⁶ Further reforms extended disregards and pardons to members of the armed forces that had been convicted or cautioned for same sex sexual activity. These reforms were enacted in the [Armed Forces Act 2021](#) and the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#).^{37,38}

The [LGBT Veterans Independent Review](#) was published in May 2023. The review summarises the legislative changes in greater detail and makes recommendations for restitution. In response to the review, the Prime Minister [apologised in July 2023](#) for the pre-2000 ban on LGBT people serving in the military and the “most horrific sexual abuse and violence, homophobic bullying and harassment” experienced by LGBT members of the armed forces.

The Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, said “I am pleased we now have the opportunity to right those historic wrongs so that LGBT Veterans can once again take pride in their service.”³⁹

4.2 Reform of the Gender Recognition Act

In July 2018, the UK Government launched a consultation on possible reforms to the [Gender Recognition Act: Reform of the Gender Recognition Act –](#)

³⁴ [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#), ss92-101

³⁵ [Policing and Crime Act 2017](#), ss164-172

³⁶ [Merchant Shipping \(Homosexual Conduct\) Act 2017](#)

³⁷ [Armed Forces Act 2021](#), s19

³⁸ [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#), ss194-195

³⁹ Government apologies to veterans for egregious historic LGBT policy in the Armed Forces

[Government Consultation](#) (PDF). Broadly, the consultation focused on the process for gaining legal recognition and “asks how best Government might make the existing process under the Gender Recognition Act”.⁴⁰ The Government described the current process as possibly too intrusive and as potentially denying transgender people “access to the legal recognition that they want”.⁴¹ The then Minister for Women and Equalities, Liz Truss, announced the [Government’s response to the consultation](#) on 22 September 2020. This stated that the Government would maintain the current process for changing legal sex established in the Gender Recognition Act, but would introduce policies to improve individuals’ experience of this system:

1. Reducing the bureaucracy and cost of the process: the Government committed to the move the procedure online, and [reduced the fee](#) for a Gender Recognition Certificate from £140 to £5 in May 2021⁴²
2. Improving trans healthcare: the Health Secretary, Maria Caulfield, [stated in January 2024](#) that five new pilot adult gender identity clinics had been commissioned by NHS England, bringing the total to 12.⁴³
3. Protections under the Equality Act 2010: the Government reiterated the protections under this Act for both transgender people and the allowances for service providers “to restrict access to single sex spaces on the basis of biological sex if there is a clear justification”.⁴⁴

Most recently, the Government has focussed on the overseas route for obtaining a gender recognition certificate. Under Section 1(1)(b) of the Gender Recognition Act 2004, a person aged at least 18 can apply for a GRC if they have “changed gender under the law of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom”. This list of approved countries was previously updated in 2011.

In [a debate on 6 December 2023](#), Kemi Badenoch, Minister for Women and Equalities, stated work had been undertaken with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office “to verify our understanding of each overseas system in question and measure it against the UK’s standard route to obtain gender recognition.”⁴⁵ The Minister further stated that “it is this Government’s policy that the UK does not recognise self-identification for the purpose of obtaining a gender recognition certificate”. The [Statutory Instrument with the updated list of countries](#) was approved by the House of Commons on 7 February 2024.

⁴⁰ [Reform of the Gender Recognition Act – Government Consultation](#) (PDF), July 2018, p.4

⁴¹ As above, para 25

⁴² Government Equalities Office press release, [Gender Recognition Certificate fee reduced](#), 4 May 2021

⁴³ PQ 901121 [on [Gender Dysphoria: Health Services](#)], 17 January 2024

⁴⁴ [HCWS462](#), 22 September 2020

⁴⁵ [HC Deb 6 December 2023, c359](#)

Stuart Andrew, Minister for Equalities, [told the House](#) on 29 January 2024 that, “following the GRA consultation and the subsequent changes we made to the application process, we have no plans to further amend the Act.”⁴⁶

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland)

The Scottish Government undertook a separate consultation and analysis in 2017 and 2019. This process led to the introduction of the [Gender Recognition Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#) on 2 March 2022. On 17 January 2023, the UK Government exercised its power under section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 to prevent the Bill from proceeding to Royal Assent, effectively vetoing the Bill. The [Government published a statement](#) of reasons outlining its rationale for making the order, basing the decision on the Secretary of State’s view that the Bill would have an adverse effect on UK equality law.

A [ruling in Scotland’s highest civil court](#), the Outer House of the Court of Session, determined that the use of section 35 was lawful.⁴⁷ The Library’s 11 December 2023 paper [The Secretary of State’s veto and the Gender Recognition Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#) provides more background.

4.3

Conversion Therapy

‘Conversion therapy’ and ‘conversion practices’ refer to coercive practices that aim to change or suppress a person’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Since 2018, successive UK Governments have described these practices as abhorrent and committed to introducing legislation to ban them.⁴⁸

Health, counselling and psychotherapy organisations have generally opposed conversion therapy,⁴⁹ but have also drawn attention to the risk of conflating it with neutral psychotherapies intended to help people with their mental health, which might include discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity.⁵⁰ Similarly, a wide range of religious organisations support a ban on conversion therapy,⁵¹ while others oppose a ban that applies to talking

⁴⁶ PQ 10680 [on [Gender Recognition](#)], 29 January 2024

⁴⁷ [Petition of the Scottish Ministers \[2023\] CSOH 89](#)

⁴⁸ For further background, see: Commons Library research briefing CBP9972, [Prohibiting conversion therapy](#)

⁴⁹ For example, [Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy in the UK](#), Version 2, Update November 2022

⁵⁰ For example, [UKCP guidance regarding gender critical views](#), UKCP (accessed 31 January 2024)

⁵¹ For example: Church of England, [General Synod backs ban on conversion therapy](#), 8 July 2017; [The Methodist Church, The Methodist Church reaffirms its opposition to Conversion Therapy](#), 8 April 2022; Church of Scotland, [Faith Impact Forum 2022](#); Church of Wales, [Bishops welcome conversion therapy ban commitment](#), 29 April 2022; Ozanne Foundation, [Letter to Minister for Women and Equalities](#), 7 July 2020; [Briefing and reflections on Conversion Therapy](#), Church of England

therapy,⁵² or object to the idea of a ban entirely, arguing that existing legal protections are sufficient.⁵³

The Government's 2018 [LGBT Action Plan](#) included a commitment to "bring forward proposals to end the practice of conversion therapy in the UK".⁵⁴ On 29 October 2021 the Government published a [consultation on banning conversion therapy, setting out legislative proposals for a ban](#). The consultation document stated that the evidence was clear that conversion therapy does not work and can cause long lasting damage to those who go through it.⁵⁵ The consultation ran until 4 February 2022. The Government's response to the consultation has not yet been published.

In the May 2022 Queen's Speech, Queen Elizabeth II announced that legislation would "be introduced to ban conversion therapy".⁵⁶ During the session of Parliament that ended on 26 October 2023 [the Government said it would, before the end of the session, publish a draft bill](#) to prohibit the practice.⁵⁷ A draft bill has not yet been published. More recently, in December 2023, [the Government said it would publish a draft bill for pre-legislative scrutiny](#) by a joint committee of both Houses in early 2024.⁵⁸

Several Private Members' Bills have been proposed on the issue. This includes a Bill sponsored by Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP which was [debated at second reading](#) in the House of Commons on 1 March 2024 but failed to progress. In the House of Lords, Baroness Burt's [Conversion Therapy Prohibition \(Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity\) Bill \[HL\]](#) was [debated at second reading on 9 February 2024](#).

Several Parliamentary Questions have probed the Government's position on the matter, given the delayed legislation and consultation response. The Government has said that it is carefully considering the issue, and seeking to legislate in a way that avoids unintended consequences, particularly in relation to parents, clinicians, teachers and religious groups.⁵⁹

⁵² For example, Christian Medical Fellowship, [Banning conversion therapy – a response by the Christian Medical Fellowship](#), 2021

⁵³ For example, Christian Concern, [Responding to government's 'conversion therapy' ban announcement](#), 17 January 2023

⁵⁴ Government Equalities Office, [LGBT Action Plan: Improving the Lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People](#), p4

⁵⁵ Government Equalities Office, [Banning conversion therapy](#), 29 October 2021

⁵⁶ Queen's Speech 2022, 10 May 2022

⁵⁷ PQ 182705 [on Conversion Therapy] 5 May 2023

⁵⁸ PQ 900634 [on Conversion Therapy] 13 December 2023

⁵⁹ [HL Deb 8 November 2023 c141](#); PQ 900634 [on [Conversion Therapy](#)] 3 December 2023

5 Parliamentary material

5.1 Early Day Motions

[Stonewall's Top 100 Employers list 2023](#)

That this House congratulates the employers who secured a place on Stonewall's Top 100 Employers list; commends the progressive work of those employers who are setting the highest standard of LGBT inclusivity in the workplace, which should be mirrored by all; regrets the Cabinet Office's decision to ...

04 Sep 2023 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 1548 (session 2022-23)

Primary sponsor: Crawley, Angela

[Caernarfon Pride](#)

That this House celebrates the success of the first ever Caernarfon Pride, held on 24 June 2023; congratulates Balchder Gogledd Cymru, North Wales Pride for organising the event and for their hard work and dedication to inclusion and diversity in north Wales; praises the work of those involved in officiating ...

27 Jun 2023 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 1377 (session 2022-23)

Primary sponsor: Williams, Hywel

[Four Pillars charity](#)

That this House congratulates Four Pillars for winning the Charity/Group Initiative Award and their CEO DeeJay Bullock for being nominated for the Community Champion Award at the Proud Scotland Awards 2023; and understands this is a tremendous achievement which reflects the staff and volunteers' enthusiasm ...

08 Jun 2023 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 1280 (session 2022-23)

Primary sponsor: Blackman, Kirsty

[Pride Month 2023](#)

That this House celebrates Pride Month 2023 and the LGBTQ+ community; recognises that generations of LGBTQ+ people have had to fight for the rights they have today; regrets that this year's Pride Month is taking place in a climate of heightened hostility, particularly towards trans people; is deeply ...

07 Jun 2023 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 1275 (session 2022-23)

Primary sponsor: Whittome, Nadia

5.2

Debates

[Conversion Therapy Prohibition \(Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity\) Bill \[HL\]](#) - HL Deb 09 Feb 2024 - 835 cc1843-1914

[National HIV Testing Week](#) - HC Deb 08 Feb 2024 - 745 cc389-403

[Draft Gender Recognition \(Approved Countries and Territories and Saving Provision\) Order 2023](#) - HC Deb 06 Feb 2024 - cc1-12

[Conversion Practices](#) - HC Deb 06 Dec 2023 - 742 cc79-102WH

[Section 28 Repeal: 20th Anniversary](#) - HC Deb 29 Nov 2023 - 741 cc343-363WH

[IVF Provision](#) - HC Deb 24 Oct 2023 - 738 cc209-230WH

[Hate Crime Against the LGBT+ Community](#) - HC Deb 18 Oct 2023 - 738 cc120-140WH

[LGBT+ People and Spouses: Social Care](#) - HC Deb 12 Sep 2023 - 737 cc311-322WH

[Pride Month](#) - HC Deb 15 Jun 2023 - 734 cc474-513

[Legislative Definition of Sex](#) - HC Deb 12 Jun 2023 - 734 cc1-46WH

[Same Sex Marriage \(Church of England\)](#) - HC Deb 21 Mar 2023 - 730 cc184-8

[LGBT History Month](#) - HC Deb 02 Feb 2023 - 727 cc505-535

[Gender Recognition Reform \(Scotland\) Bill: Section 35 Power](#) - HC Deb 17 Jan 2023 - 726 cc227-262

[Gender Recognition Reform \(Scotland\) Bill: Section 35 Power](#) - HC Deb 17 Jan 2023 - 726 cc219-220

5.3

Statement

[Women's Health Strategy update](#)

17 Jan 2024 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS192

[Schools and Colleges Update](#)

19 Dec 2023 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS154

[LGBT Veterans Independent Review](#)

13 Dec 2023 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 742 cc897-910

[Outcome of the Judicial Review challenging the use of Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 with regard to the Gender Recognition Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

11 Dec 2023 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS109

[Gender Recognition](#)

06 Dec 2023 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 742 cc359-375

[Veterans Update](#)

19 Jul 2023 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 736 cc919-936

[Veterans Update](#)

19 Jul 2023 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS977

[LGBT Veterans Review](#)

22 Jun 2022 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS126

[Disregards and pardons scheme](#)

13 Jun 2023 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS848

[RSHE Review Update](#)

05 Jun 2023 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS814

[Equalities update](#)

09 Jan 2023 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS482

[Scotland Act 1998: Section 35 Power](#)

17 Jan 2023 | Ministerial statements | House of Commons | 726 cc199-219

5.4

Parliamentary Questions

[Schools: Gender-questioning Children](#)

Asked by: Baroness Twycross (Lab)

My Lords, Labour welcomes the consultation on the guidance. It is clear that schools want greater clarity on how to approach what is, as the Minister said,

often a sensitive and difficult issue. As someone who has two honorary nieces who are trans, I find that the tone of the debate often ignores the fact that this is about individuals and how we treat them. It is hard to ignore the fact that transphobia was an aggravating factor in the horrific murder of Brianna Ghey. I am confident from her response so far that the Minister agrees, but can she confirm that the guidance will ensure that dignity and respect are at its heart?

Answered by: Baroness Barran (Con)

The noble Baroness will have seen from the guidance the principles that underpin it. It is absolutely clear that schools and colleges should be respectful and tolerant places where bullying is never tolerated.

22 Feb 2024 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Lords | 836 c698

Date answered: 22 Feb 2024

[Ministry of Defence: LGBT+ People](#)

Asked by: McCabe, Steve

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the inclusivity of his Department's LGBT+ policies.

Answering member: Dr Andrew Murrison | **Department:** Ministry of Defence

Defence is proud of all our LGBT+ military and civilian personnel, and the significant contribution they make to ensure national security, support our national interests, and safeguard our prosperity. It is essential to Defence operational effectiveness that we build a more inclusive and diverse organisation to achieve a stronger, healthier, and more resilient workforce and maximise the talent of all our people.

We are committed to continue working with our LGBT+ networks to improve the lived experience of Service personnel and civilian staff. These networks provide excellent support to the LGBT+ community through conferences, communications, and engagement, and direct support to individuals as required.

Our Armed Forces and civilian personnel regularly take part in London Pride, in addition to other Pride events across the country. Attendance at Pride events by Defence LGBT+ personnel is a powerful demonstration of how inclusive an employer Defence is and the extent to which we represent UK

society. Uniformed personnel make a very public statement that you can be LGBT+ and serve your country. This challenges stereotypes and misconceptions held by serving personnel, potential recruits and gatekeepers, veterans, and the public.

Defence is committed to taking forward restorative action for LGBT individuals who were impacted by historic policies. It is a priority for us to implement the vast majority of recommendations from the Lord Etherton report and guarantee that our LGBT+ personnel remain properly supported.

Work is ongoing to update internal Defence policies and processes. We have streamlined the process for registering Armed Forces Chapels for marriage of both opposite sex and same sex couples, making it quicker and easier. Given that only two Armed Forces Chapels in England and Wales are currently registered for same-sex couples' marriage, this change will have a highly positive impact on our LGBT+ community. Looking to the future, we are working to ensure this process is as fast as it can be, to affirm equal opportunity for our serving personnel, their close family members and veterans. We are also working to update the online human resources system for the Armed Forces with more declaration categories for faith and belief, gender, and sexual orientation. This will help to improve declaration rates which will allow us to target support where it is most needed.

06 Feb 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 11942

Date tabled: 30 Jan 2024 | **Date for answer:** 06 Feb 2024 | **Date answered:** 06 Feb 2024

[Gender Recognition](#)

Asked by: Nichols, Charlotte

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, if she will reform the Gender Recognition Act 2004 to allow transgender people who are deceased to be legally remembered by the gender they lived by.

Answering member: Stuart Andrew | **Department:** Women and Equalities

We recognise the sensitivity of these situations, particularly when family and friends are dealing with the loss of a loved one. The Gender Recognition Act (GRA) 2004 provides for people to change their legal gender. Those who have undergone this process and acquired a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) before the time of their death will, of course, be recognised in their new gender.

Without undergoing the process of legal gender recognition and acquiring a GRC under the provisions laid out in the GRA 2004, a person has not legally changed gender. Therefore they would not be recognised in their new gender upon the unfortunate event of their death. That said, where a person was using their new gender with an organisation prior to their death, and that was on their personal records, then we anticipate that the organisation would engage with their family members using the new gender. These organisations could include the NHS, their place of work or community groups.

We recognise that everyone who decides to undergo a change in how their legal sex is recorded deserves our respect, support and compassion throughout the process. The process does not currently allow for third party applications, such as posthumous applications on behalf of a deceased friend or relative, as any application will be a deeply personal undertaking and choice.

Following the GRA consultation and the subsequent changes we made to the application process, we have no plans to further amend the Act.

29 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 10680

Date tabled: 19 Jan 2024 | **Date for answer:** 23 Jan 2024 | **Date answered:** 29 Jan 2024

[Employment: Fertility](#)

Asked by: Crawley, Angela

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of fertility treatment on workplace rights for LGBT families.

Answering member: Stuart Andrew | **Department:** Women and Equalities

It is crucial that we ensure everyone is treated fairly in the workplace, so that they can thrive and reach their full potential, including LGBT people undergoing - or seeking to undergo - fertility treatment.

While no specific assessment has been made, the Government has set out in the Women's Health Strategy our commitment to remove the additional financial burdens of self-funding artificial insemination on female same-sex couples, so that they are able to access NHS-funded fertility services in a more equitable way. It is for Integrated Care Boards to implement the commitment to improve access to NHS-funded fertility treatment for female same sex couples, taking account of the relevant equality legislation. Media

coverage of, and stakeholder interest in, these developments should help raise awareness, including amongst employers, about the importance of fertility treatment for LGBT family formation.

As part of our Inclusive Britain strategy, published in March 2022, we launched an Inclusion at Work Panel last year aimed at helping employers achieve fairness and inclusion in the workplace.

If an individual feels that they have been unlawfully discriminated against in the workplace, they may wish to contact the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas). They may also wish to contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service which provides free bespoke advice and in-depth support to individuals with discrimination or equality concerns.

25 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 10849

Date tabled: 22 Jan 2024 | **Date for answer:** 25 Jan 2024 | **Date answered:** 25 Jan 2024

[Non-crime Hate Incidents: Transgender People](#)

Asked by: Maclean, Rachel

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what percentage of non-crime hate incidents recorded under the Additional Threshold Test against biological women have been reported by biological males under the gender reassignment protected characteristic as of 9 January 2023.

Answering member: Chris Philp | **Department:** Home Office

The Home Office's Non-Crime Hate Incidents Code of Practice on the Recording and Retention of Personal Data came into effect in June 2023 and applies to police forces across England and Wales. The code includes safeguards better to protect the fundamental right to freedom of expression and stipulates that police should only record NCHIs when it is necessary and proportionate to do so, and not simply because someone is offended. Incidents that are irrational, malicious, or trivial should not be recorded as NCHIs.

To address concerns about the recording of personal data, the code introduced an additional threshold to ensure that personal data may only be included in an NCHI record if the event is motivated by intentional hostility or prejudice and where the police judge that there is a real risk of escalation causing significant harm or a criminal offence.

The College of Policing publishes operational guidance for the police, known as ‘Authorised Professional Practice’ (APP), on how to deal with different types of crimes and incidents, including NCHIs. The College updated its APP so that it aligns with the Government’s code. The College is responsible for determining police training requirements, and has developed an e-briefing pack on NCHIs which is available to forces.

The code specifically covers characteristics that are protected under hate crime legislation in England and Wales – race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity and disability. It defines transgender identity or perceived transgender identity by setting out that “references to being transgender include references to being transsexual, or undergoing, proposing to undergo or having undergone a process or part of a process of gender reassignment.” This aligns with the definition set out in section 66(6)(e) of the Sentencing Act 2020.

The Home Office does not collect data from forces on the number of NCHIs recorded by the police, nor do we collect data relating to the personal characteristics of those involved in incidents. We similarly do not collect information on police spending relating to the investigation of NCHIs. The data collected from the police balances policy needs and the burden on forces.

17 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 8833

Date tabled: 09 Jan 2024 | **Date for answer:** 11 Jan 2024 | **Date answered:** 17 Jan 2024

[HIV Infection: Drugs](#)

Asked by: Eshalomi, Florence

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what information her Department holds on the number of (a) men who have sex with men, (b) women, (c) Black men and (d) Black women that were accessing PrEP in England in (i) 2021, (ii) 2022 and (iii) 2023.

Answering member: Andrea Leadsom | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

Data for 2023 is not yet available and is to be published in autumn of 2024. The following table shows the number of people in 2021 and 2022 who initiated or continued HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) at sexual health services (SHSs) in England in the past two years for the demographic groups requested, as well as the proportion among those with HIV PrEP need:

	2021	2022
England	61,510 (69.7%)	86,324(71.0%)
Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men	51,689 (72.2%)	72,457 (73.5%)
Women	1,237 (31.5%)	2,467 (41.9%)
Black men (black African, black Caribbean and black other categories)	2,408 (61.7%)	2,986 (61.7%)
Black women (black African, black Caribbean and black other categories)	80 (19.0%)	175 (30.2%)

More data is available at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hiv-annual-data-tables>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hiv-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework/hiv-action-plan-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework#main-messages>

16 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 8624

Date tabled: 08 Jan 2024 | **Date for answer:** 10 Jan 2024 | **Date answered:** 16 Jan 2024

[Fertility: LGBT+ People](#)

Asked by: Owen, Sarah

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what progress her Department has made on relieving the financial burdens for same-sex couples receiving fertility treatment.

Answering member: Maria Caulfield | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

Funding decisions for health services in England, including in vitro fertilisation (IVF), are made by integrated care boards (ICBs) and are based on the clinical needs of their local population.

The Government published the first Women's Health Strategy on 20 July 2022, which contained several important changes and future ambitions to improve the variations in access to National Health Service funded fertility services. This includes improving access to IVF for female same-sex couples by removing the additional financial burden they face when accessing

treatment. We are working with NHS England to develop guidance for ICBs to assist in their commissioning plans, which will be published in due course.

10 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 8207

Date tabled: 05 Jan 2024 | **Date for answer:** 09 Jan 2024 | **Date answered:** 10 Jan 2024

[Pupils: LGBT+ People](#)

Asked by: Begum, Apsana

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of schools on the mental health of young people identifying as LGBTQ+.

Answering member: Damian Hinds | **Department:** Department for Education

The department has not made a specific assessment of the potential impact of schools on the mental health of LGBTQ+ young people, but the department is aware that bullying in school can have a profound effect on a child's mental health and collect regular information.

To support schools, the department is providing over £3 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2024, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying and homophobic, bi-phobic and transphobic based bullying.

The department is taking actions to tackle bullying as part of the commitment to ensuring schools are safe, supportive, inclusive environments where all pupils feel they belong. The department's programme of senior mental health lead training is further supporting schools to promote the mental health and wellbeing of all pupils through effective whole-school approaches. This approach should include creating an environment that promotes respect and values diversity, having robust processes for identifying individuals or groups of pupils in need of further support, and ensuring all staff can recognise and understand how to respond to mental health concerns. The department has committed to offer all schools and colleges funding to train a senior mental health lead by 2025. Over 14,000 settings, including more than 7 in 10 state secondary schools, have taken up the offer so far.

09 Jan 2024 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 7690

Date tabled: 19 Dec 2023 | **Date for answer:** 08 Jan 2024 | **Date answered:** 09 Jan 2024

[Schools: Gender Recognition](#)

Asked by: Hayes, Sir John

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure school children are provided with age-appropriate (a) discussions and (b) materials on gender self-identification.

Answering member: Damian Hinds | **Department:** Department for Education

The Relationships and Sex and Health Education (RSHE) statutory guidance is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>.

It is for schools to make decisions about the content they teach and the materials they use when teaching RSHE. However, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, has been concerned to hear reports of inappropriate materials being used in schools and that contested topics are being taught as fact. This is why the department has brought forward the first review of the RSHE statutory guidance, including appointing an independent panel to provide expert advice on what is appropriate to be taught in RSHE and at what age. Details of the independent review panel are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/relationships-health-and-sex-education-independent-review>.

In March 2023, the Secretary of State for Education wrote to schools to remind them that copyright law does not prevent them sharing external resources with parents. In October 2023, she wrote again to clarify that any contractual clause that prevents schools from sharing materials is void and unenforceable, and to provide practical advice on how to share materials with parents in a way that is in line with copyright legislation. The department will ensure that the updated guidance fully reflects this very clear position. The guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secretary-of-state-letter-to-schools-about-sharing-curriculum-resources-with-parents>.

A draft of the amended guidance will be published for consultation, at the earliest opportunity, in the new year.

19 Dec 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 6401

Date tabled: 12 Dec 2023 | **Date for answer:** 14 Dec 2023 | **Date answered:** 19 Dec 2023

Conversion Therapy

Asked by: Cunningham, Alex

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, when she plans to publish the responses to her Department's consultation on banning conversion therapy.

Answering member: Stuart Andrew | **Department:** Women and Equalities

The Government remains absolutely committed to taking action to tackle abhorrent conversion 'therapy' practices. These acts are aimed at changing someone else's identity, whether that be to or from being LGBT, and have no place in UK society.

Equality Ministers and officials have been carefully considering the issue, including all of the responses we received to our public consultation. This is to ensure any action we take is robust, measured and avoids any unintended consequences on parents, clinicians, teachers or religious groups.

A draft Bill setting out our approach will be published for pre-legislative scrutiny by a joint Committee of both Houses in the new year, alongside the Government's response to the consultation.

13 Dec 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 900634

Date tabled: 07 Dec 2023 | **Date for answer:** 13 Dec 2023 | **Date answered:** 13 Dec 2023

Health Professions: Standards

Asked by: Davies, Philip

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what the policies are of healthcare regulations on the publication of (a) fitness to practice decisions, (b) sanctions and (c) warnings when a person changes their gender and requests their former public record is suppressed.

Answering member: Maria Caulfield | **Department:** Department of Health and Social Care

Professional Regulators have a statutory duty to ensure patient safety and public protection and one way in which they achieve this is by publishing relevant information relating to a professional's fitness to practise. A

healthcare professional's fitness to practise record is tied to their unique registration record held by the relevant regulatory body, which will remain associated with the individual throughout their career. This is regardless of whether a professional changes their name and or gender. As independent bodies, the policies relating to publication of such information is a matter for each professional regulator, within the scope of their governing legislation and in line with existing data legislation and other law.

15 Mar 2023 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 163845

Date tabled: 13 Mar 2023 | **Date for answer:** 15 Mar 2023 | **Date answered:** 15 Mar 2023

5.5 Committee material

[Correspondence from the Secretary of State relating to the Department's review of the statutory guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education \(RSHE\).](#)

13 Jun 2023 | Parliamentary committees - Unprinted papers - Select Committee written evidence | House of Commons

Corporate author: Education Committee

[Correspondence with the Minister for Development and Africa relating to UK aid funding to anti-LGBT+ organisations](#)

06 Jun 2023 | Parliamentary committees - Unprinted papers - Select Committee written evidence | House of Commons

Corporate author: International Development Committee

[RSHE review](#)

10 May 2023 and 14 June 2023 | Parliamentary committees - House of Commons papers - Select Committee written and oral evidence | House of Commons | HC 1309 2022-23

Corporate author: Women and Equalities Committee

[Correspondence from the Chairwoman of the EHRC relating to recent advice to Government regarding amendments to the definition of sex in the Equality Act 2010.](#)

19 Apr 2023 | Parliamentary committees - Unprinted papers - Select Committee written evidence | House of Commons

Corporate author: Women and Equalities Committee

[Gender Recognition Reform \(Scotland\) Bill and Equality Act.](#)

31 Jan 2023 | Parliamentary committees - House of Commons papers - Select Committee oral evidence - Select Committee written evidence | House of Commons | HC 1098 2022-23

Corporate author: Women and Equalities Committee

6 Media

6.1 Press releases

[Living in Love and Faith: ‘the work goes on’ Bishop Martyn tells Synod](#)

Church of England

27 February 2024

[GMC apologises to doctors for historic sanctions based on convictions under homophobic laws](#)

General Medical Council

22 February 2024

[LGBT Foundation Responds to the Government Roadmap for Improving PrEP Access](#)

LGBT Foundation

16 February 2024

[Our response to the WHO consultation on “a guideline on the health of trans and gender diverse people”](#)

LGB Alliance

08 January 2024

[‘Gender questioning children’: Just Like Us’ response to the government’s draft trans guidance for schools](#)

Just Like Us

January 2024

[Trans youth need supportive schools](#)

Mermaids

19 December 2023

['Not fit for purpose' - Stonewall's response to draft trans guidance for schools in England](#)

Stonewall

19 December 2023

[CI: 'Trans guidance for schools significant step forward'](#)

Christian Institute

19 December 2023

[LGBT Foundation Express Concern at the Cap on Compensation For LGBTQ+ Veterans](#)

LGBT Foundation

06 December 2023

[Policy for the Management of Transgender People in Custody](#)

Scottish Prison Service

05 December 2023

[Church of England backs services for gay couples](#)

BBC

15 November 2023

[Galop's statement on the 2022-2023 Official Statistics for Hate Crime](#)

Galop

05 October 2023

[Same-sex marriage legislation shows that policy can lead public opinion](#)

Institute for Government

17 July 2023

[Swim England updates transgender and non-binary competition policy](#)

Swim England

03 April 2023

[England Athletics: statement on eligibility in Athletics](#)

England Athletics

31 March 2023

6.2 Media and blogs

[LGBT+ history month: Assisted reproduction as a pathway to parenthood](#)

Brodies

28 February

[More than 70 per cent of transgender prisoners are in for sex offences or violent crimes](#)

Telegraph

24 February 2024

[Transgender inmates 'terrify' female prisoners, secret report says](#)

Times

18 February 2024

[Putting HIV history #UnderTheScope this LGBT+ History Month](#)

National Aids Trust

01 February 2024

[Trans people in England more likely to have long-term poor mental health – study](#)

Guardian

01 February 2024

[Was the Scottish Prison Service transgender prisoner policy a done deal?](#)

Murray Blackburn Mackenzie

10 January 2024

[What does the trans guidance for England's schools say?](#)

Guardian

20 December 2023

[Trans guidance: schools must present gender identity as 'contested belief'](#)

Times

20 December 2023

[Prison service sets out 'individualised' approach to dealing with trans offenders](#)

Holyrood

05 December 2023

[The status of transgender and intersex athletes in international sports federations](#)

Charles Russell Speechlys

04 December 2023

[Countries that criminalise gay sex are impeding fight against Aids, UN warns](#)

Guardian

01 December 2023

[Twenty years after section 28 repeal, lessons still need to be learned from UK's homophobic law](#)

The Conversation

16 November 2023

[New research: shining a light on 'dehumanising' discrimination faced by ace people](#)

Stonewall

26 October 2023

[11 mental health resources LGBTQ+ people should know about](#)

Gay Times

10 October 2023

[Now more than ever, cis female athletes must show solidarity with trans athletes](#)

Guardian

07 July 2023

[Less than half in Britain back gender-affirming care for trans teenagers](#)

Guardian

08 June 2023

[Positive Futures: Just Like Us report finds support is key to LGBT+ young people's success as adults](#)

Just Like Us

June 2023

[The invisible story of intimate partner violence against gay and bisexual men in Scotland](#)

Glasgow Caledonian University

19 April 2023

[LGBT+ young adults more than twice as likely to have self-harmed than their non-LGBT+ peers](#)

Just Like Us

May 2023

[The hidden costs facing potential LGBTQ+ parents](#)

Stonewall

18 April 2023

[What would changing the Equality Act mean for trans people and single-sex spaces?](#)

Guardian

05 April 2023

7 Further reading

7.1 House of Commons Library and POST

[Prohibiting conversion therapy](#), 22 February 2024

[The Secretary of State's veto and the Gender Recognition Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#), 11 December 2023

[The 20th anniversary of the repeal of section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988](#), 28 November 2023

[Hormone Treatments for Children and Young People with Gender Dysphoria](#), 22 November 2023

[Treatment of LGBT+ people and their spouses in social care settings](#), 7 September 2023

[Factors shaping gender incongruence and gender dysphoria, and impact on health services](#), 2 August 2023

[General debate on Pride Month](#), 14 June 2023

[Debate on e-petitions 623243 and 627984, relating to the definition of "sex" in the Equality Act 2010](#), 9 June 2023

[2021 census: What do we know about the LGBT+ population?](#) 16 January 2023

[Performance, Inclusion and Elite Sports – Transgender Athletes](#), 10 October 2022

[UK aid for LGBT+ inclusion](#), 13 July 2022

[50 years of Pride in the UK](#), 27 June 2022

[Same-sex marriage in the UK's Overseas Territories](#), 04 April 2022

[Non-binary gender recognition: law and policy](#), 31 March 2022

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