

Argyll & Bute Trans Youth chat

1 Do you have any comments on the proposal that applicants must live in their acquired gender for at least 3 months before applying for a GRC?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

This submission comes from ten young people living across Argyll & Bute, aged between 12 and 21. They are all trans (including nonbinary) young folk.

The group unanimously agreed that a requirement to prove a person has lived in their acquired gender for at least 3 months before applying for a GRC is NOT necessary.

Comments from the group:

That's a really big difference from the current 2 years, but why do we need any time at all? I've already been considering my gender all the time since I before I could even think.

I dont think its right that a panel decide if im a man or not

Whoever would be the decision maker that you've lived in your gender for 3 months - what a weird waste of someone's time and paying them to do that.

Yeah, at the point you're applying for a GRC, you definitely know and don't need the government to tell you to go away and think about it for another 3 months, 2 years or whatever.

Just no.

I agree, 3 months and the other 3 months is stupid.

Why do we have to wait for birth certificate? I've already got a passport and a provisional.

How would an individual prove that anyway? Especially if they've already been living as who they are for a long time.

Yeah what if you didn't change your name or the way that you dress? Why would that matter to the government anyway, it's madness like when you think about it!!!

i want to get my birth certificate changed its a long process and sounds stressful.

I changed all my other documents in a weekend, and then cos I'm 16 I have to wait 2 years before I can finish this task and get my birth certificate. Even if I was 18 when I sorted the other stuff I would have to wait another 6 months before I could get everything done. It's so frustrating and it affects me badly when I think about my deadname + the wrong gender being out there on official documents about me, it's terrifying actually. I hope this law gets changed asap. It should be as simple as changing other documents.

Just let us get our documents in order when we're ready and stop trying to delay it.

It's hard enough being trans tbh.

2 Do you have any comments on the proposal that applicants must go through a period of reflection for at least 3 months before obtaining a GRC?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

The group unanimously agreed that the proposal that applicants must go through a period of reflection for at least 3 months before obtaining a GRC, is NOT necessary.

Some young people were already familiar with the process of statutory declaration from changing their names, and those young people all felt that a statutory

declaration would be about the right level of formality for legal gender change.

Comments from the group:

I'm sure the majority of people who change their gender through GRC won't go back on it and change their minds, so there shouldn't be a period of reflection. I still think if they do change their mind then they should be able to change it back. But instead of making it more difficult for the majority of people applying they should make it easier, since it is the majority.

I'd say most folk would have definitely thought long and hard about transitioning before they get to the point of legally changing their gender. I don't think it's something people do light heartedly

Okay when i did my statutory declaration for changing my name it was the best day, i felt like a weight had been lifted, why should we have to wait to have our correct legal gender i think thats a simple human right, who gets to tell us what gender we should have. So I dont think there should be a reflection time as i said who gets to decide what gender we are. We know ourselves.

I think that seems a bit stupid, making it confusing and sneak in an extra 3 months I'd say no time before statutory declaration because I didn't feel confident until I got mine (name change)

Yeah i know the statutory declaration process and that sound so much better than the current GRC process. It would definitely be a lot easier, so I don't think there should be a period of reflection.

3 Should the minimum age at which a person can apply for legal gender recognition be reduced from 18 to 16?

Yes

If you wish, please give reasons for your view.:

The all group agreed that 16 and 17 year olds SHOULD be able to apply for legal gender recognition.

They also discussed whether people younger than 16 should be able to apply, and decided that they should, with the consent of a parent, guardian, or another adult who has known the child for a period of time.

Some comments from the group on Under 16s:

Yeah they should be aloud to apply maybe with some consent

On one hand I think under 16 is too young to really know what you want, but on the other I would want to say they should be able to apply, because I know there are some people that age that do know what they want for sure

Under 16s definitely some form of consent, I think there needs to be some sort of consent somewhere, wether it be a parent, guardian or just an adult that has known the child for a period of time.

4 Do you have any other comments on the provisions of the draft Bill?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

The group discussed the fact that the earlier GRA consultation intended to give nonbinary people legal recognition. One person in this group of young people also took part in the first consultation on GRA reform in Scotland.

Some comments from the group:

It seems strange for them to have left out giving non binary people legal recognition this time. They should not be left out.

Yes I don't think they should be left out.

I'm non-binary and I feel so abandoned by the government, I really thought they would give us legal recognition last time when the majority of Scottish people said they agreed we should have it. And now it's not even in the consultation. Makes you lose faith in the consultations.

Yeah what I want to know is whether the results of the first consultation are still going to count. We spent ages replying to that it's not really fair if it's just ignored now.

How can it be equality for trans people when they're ignoring a large number of people and friends of mine who I don't want to be left behind me. They totally deserve legal recognition just as much as everyone else does.

5 Do you have any comments on the draft Impact Assessments?

No

If yes, please outline these comments.: