



Department
of Health

Your Ref: [REDACTED]

PO-1060871

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From Nicola Blackwood MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation

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Dear Rebecca

Thank you for your letter of 17 November on behalf of Ms [REDACTED] Chair of [REDACTED] about support for transgender people.

Discrimination against transgender people in the NHS is unacceptable. The NHS Constitution commits the NHS to providing a comprehensive service without discrimination. However, we do recognise that discrimination does still take place and we are working to combat this. The Women and Equalities Committee highlighted that GPs in particular often lack an understanding of transgender identities, of referral pathways into gender identity services and of their own role in prescribing hormone treatments. The Committee concluded that in some cases these problems in general practice lead to appropriate care not being provided.

The General Medical Council (GMC) has acted on the Committee's recommendations by publishing new guidance on the responsibilities of GPs in treating transgender people. The guidance provides doctors with advice on issues such as confidentiality and respect. It also advises that an individual who requests treatment for gender dysphoria should be referred to a specialist gender identity clinic without delay.

The GMC's guidance also confirms the role of GPs in prescribing and monitoring hormone treatments for transgender people, and confirms that it is safe and appropriate for them to do so. GPs who fail to follow this guidance are at risk of being referred to the GMC, which regulates medical practitioners.