

Free2B Alliance

Questions

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.:

We support trans young people and find the waiting processes at all stages have a negative impact. I don't see any benefit to an arbitrary 3 month wait as there is no evidence this has any impact. Removing this barrier will reduce the negative impact on mental health

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.:

Again as with the 3 month period in question 1 we don't see any benefit to a further 3 month period of reflection. This simply extends waiting times and therefore has a negative impact on mental health.

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.:

We run services supporting LGBTQ+ young people and all of our trans members aged 16+ have a clear sense of self and it's extremely distressing for them to wait 2 years especially when the law allows other 'impactful' decisions such as marriage and sexual relationships at this age

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

We watch so many young people suffer with poor mental health and support changes to make the process straight forward and without unnecessary waiting. This includes many non-binary young people and we desperately hope the bill will cover non-binary and gender variant identities and not just trans men and women

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

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Supporting trans rights has no impact on anyone else rights. Equality gives everyone a slice of the pie -it does take from one to give from another