

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

June 2020

Dear Courtney

Thank you for your email about the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA).

I know that colleagues in the Government Equalities Office have been doing a lot of work on this recently to form their response to the consultation. Understandably, the Coronavirus outbreak has complicated things somewhat, but I have received reassurances from the department that they plan to publish their response in the summer.

I completely understand that reforming the GRA is a complex and sensitive issue, which is why it is important for everyone's views to be heard and listened to. I believe strongly that adults should have the freedom to live their life but I do think it is very important we protect young adults, who are still developing their decision making processes and capabilities, from taking action which they potentially cannot reverse. I would like to make clear however, that I am actively engaged in a listening exercise with many on this issue and I know my colleagues on the Women and Equalities Select Committee are keen to hear all sides of the debate.

I do not wish to pre-empt the consultation response, and I would like to take the time to study the detail of it in due course. However, I understand that there are concerns about how this may affect transgender rights more widely and I want to assure you that a member of the Select Committee for Women and Equalities, I will certainly bear your comments in mind when discussing this with colleagues,

This is a complex area to reform and I want to ensure that the Government gets the balance right.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

PETER GIBSON MP

*Member of Parliament for Darlington*

Constituency Office: 34 Duke Street, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 7AQ Telephone: 01325 711711

Email: [peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk) Website: [www.petergibson.org](http://www.petergibson.org)

