

CULTURE, TOURISM, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CENSUS (AMENDMENT) (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

I am writing to you regarding the proposed changes to the Census Bill. I had the pleasure of being personally involved in testing the questions on sex and trans status. The conversation I had with the National Records Scotland's analysts gave me hope that the census will finally report correctly and accurately on trans people in Scotland.

I was, however, made aware that you may have received submissions asking for the inclusive format to be scrapped. I ask that you reconsider this change. Let me tell you how this particular wording would work in my case.

I am a trans man and have been living as male for over 3 years now. I interact with all service providers (including the NHS) as male. For all statistical purposes, whenever asked about my sex, I choose the male option. Many people in my life, including colleagues and employers, have only known me as a man and would never consider me anything other. When the time comes for me to fill in the census, it will cause me great humiliation and distress if I am forced to tick the "female" box, should you choose to make me use the "biological sex at birth" definition of sex. Please know that as someone born outside the UK, I am not able to change my legal sex using the current GRC (Gender recognition certificate) process. The only option that will record me correctly as a trans man is the one proposed by NRS after consulting with trans people - allowing self identified sex status, adding a third answer option of "other" to the compulsory sex question and including a new voluntary question asking me if I consider myself to be trans or to have a trans history.

I strongly urge you to follow the NRS guidelines as not only will it make filling the census a less traumatic experience for trans people, it will also make it more accurate.