

CULTURE, TOURISM, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CENSUS (AMENDMENT) (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ANONYMOUS

Having seen a recent newspaper article about the sex question on the upcoming census and then watching the video of the committee oral evidence sessions. I am very concerned about the discussion around using biological sex as the criteria on the mandatory question.

I feel that any backward movement to use biological sex as an identifier would be extremely distressing and I've already spent many hours in discussions about this when I should just be able to get on with my life. I am a trans woman who has lived in my authentic gender for the last fourteen years with all my documentation matching my identity. I don't feel the census would gain anything whatsoever from asking me to identify as someone I never have identified with and it would only cause me emotional distress over how to proceed. It would also be a total violation of my privacy which is something I've tried hard to protect.

If this proceeds it would put me in a really stressful situation when I already struggle massively with my mental health and could lead to me refusing to complete the census whatsoever. I understand this would be against the law and this in itself would have a damaging effect on my health so I would ask you to seriously consider the impact on people like me before you proceed with this step. How can anyone possibly think it would be ok to identify as Emma and male!

I would like to add that if I am asked to identify my sex as previously done on a self identification basis I would put female and any question asking my gender identity would also be female which would in essence discount me as a trans person from your statistics. I feel a voluntary question seeking information on numbers of trans people should be worded more in line with Do you consider yourself to be a trans person? Or do you have a trans history? If the census is worded in this way I will happily identify as both female and trans .