

CULTURE, TOURISM, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CENSUS (AMENDMENT) (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM CHARLOTTE WAGNER

The guidance seems to confuse Sex and Gender Identity (“Sex already includes the gender with which a person identifies”). Data on biological sex should continue to be collected as a single question on the census – I am not clear, from reading the documentation, if this is going to continue to be the case. Services like the NHS need to be planned properly for men and women (e.g. planning for maternity care or prostate cancer services). This will not be possible if you do not know how many females and males there are in the population. I think any question about gender identity should be in addition, and separate to this. Sex and gender reassignment are separate protected characteristics so the government should seek to have data on both.