

Victoria Atkins, MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

As the CEO of the UK's only registered charity exclusively supporting lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, I'd like to thank you for your robust and well-informed response to the Cass Review.

The Review showed that 89% of girls and 81% of boys at GIDS were same-sex attracted. It supported our long-held view that many vulnerable young people who are beginning to consider they may be LGBT are being persuaded by activists that they were 'born in the wrong body' and should seek drugs and surgery to 'fix' themselves.

I hope you'll agree that it's an absolute tragedy that so many young people will be prevented from growing up to be happy and healthy LGBT people and become life-long medical patients instead.

So we very much welcomed your support of the ban on puberty blockers within the NHS. Particularly as we know that most children who start on that pathway continue on to take cross-sex hormones.

I am writing today because you spoke of limiting the ability of private clinics to prescribe these drugs and I believe it is becoming increasingly urgent that the Government acts.

We are particularly concerned about an organisation called Gender GP, run from Singapore by husband and wife team, Mike and Helen Webberley. Mike Webberley, a consultant gastroenterologist, has been struck off the UK medical register for "wide ranging failings" in treating young transgender patients and in prescribing testosterone for men. Yet he continues to provide prescriptions online, for cash, to children he has not diagnosed or even met, which can be presented at a UK pharmacy to be fulfilled.

In 2021, Helen Webberley boasted that Gender GP had 2,000 young patients. It's horrifying to consider how many more children have passed through the clinic in subsequent years.

Is the Department of Health aware of how many other unregulated and unqualified private providers are writing similar prescriptions for children living in the UK? Do you have data to show how many children have been, and are currently, taking these drugs?

We are extremely worried about this loophole and its exploitation by ideologically driven and unscrupulous providers who do not have children's best interests at heart.

We would ask that you consult with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) about how prescriptions of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones from private clinics, at home and overseas, can be paused until such time as those organisations can demonstrate they comply with guidance issued to the NHS.

Our campaign 'Best Practice Not Private Practice' has been received positively by the lesbians, gay men and bisexuals we support and I feel certain that the wider public would endorse our call for action wholeheartedly.

It cannot be acceptable that children's health is endangered in this way and I would be extremely grateful if we could meet to discuss how the Government might act to right this wrong.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Barker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Barker  
CEO, LGB Alliance