

British Medical Association
BMA House,
Tavistock Square,
London
WC1H 9JP

12th June 2026

Dear Ms Podolak,

We read with interest, news of your survey 'Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity In Medicine' in an article last updated on 26 March 2026

You explained that the BMA is working to understand and improve the experiences of LGBTQ+ medics in education, training and the workplace.

We are writing to ask what you understand the '+' in LGBTQ+ to represent.

Who are the '+' medics you are working to support, what are their characteristics and on what basis do they face discrimination?

LGB Alliance is the only UK charity to exclusively support lesbians, gay men and bisexuals (LGB) and it is already unhelpful that our views are often conflated with those who identify as trans through the use of the acronym LGBT. Sexual orientation and gender identity share no common ground and, in fact, many proponents of gender ideology hold distinctly homophobic views. It is even more alarming to be linked, against our will, to the entirely unknown groups of people who may fall under the '+'.

We can think of no other instance where the group studied is not defined, or even named, for the purposes of a piece of research and we would like to understand more about your approach.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Kate Barker
CEO, LGB Alliance