



Kevin Foster MP
Minister for the Constitution
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon the Baroness Smith of Basildon
House of Lords
London, SW1A 0PW

Our reference: MFC/00101

11 September 2019

Dear Lady Smith,

During the debates on the Census (Return Particulars and Removal of Penalties) Bill in the House of Lords earlier this year, the importance of guidance for the sex, gender identity and sexual orientation questions in the census was raised, and ensuring this guidance is developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including LGBT and women's groups.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has developed and tested this guidance over the summer. This work is now complete and the ONS has published the attached report on its website. This sets out the work undertaken over the summer and the guidance that will be used for the Census Rehearsal over the coming weeks.

Officials from the ONS would be happy to meet with you and your colleagues to discuss the questions and the guidance further if you would find it helpful. I will provide a further update on the passage of Census legislation when the House returns.

I am copying this letter to Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town, Lord Kennedy of Southwark, Baroness Barker, and Lord Wallace of Saltaire. I will also deposit a copy of this letter and the guidance in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Foster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Foster MP