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8 May 2024

My Lords,

Following the question to the Government by Baroness Fox of Buckley on 24th April, I am writing to provide further information in response to supplementary questions asked by Peers.

In response to the initial question asked by Baroness Fox, I outlined the work the Government has undertaken to commission an independent review (the Sullivan review) into the recording of data on biological sex and gender identity by public bodies and in research. This review's key purpose is to identify obstacles to accurate data collection and research on sex and on gender identity in public bodies and in the research system, as well as setting out good practice guidance for how to collect data on sex and gender identity. Consequently, the Sullivan review will not consider data relating to how an individual's parentage is recorded as Lord Ponsonby raised in his supplementary question regarding the consideration of complicating factors such as sperm donors, egg donors and birth mothers in data collection.

Baroness Hoey asked about the scope of the Sullivan review and whether this will include Northern Ireland, I can confirm that the review will be UK-wide, respecting the devolved nature of areas of responsibility within the research and development landscape and the collection of relevant areas of data and statistics.

Lord Jackson raised NHS trusts and clinicians refusing to release data to the Cass Review, you may be aware that this Government took the unprecedented step of changing the law to make it possible for adult gender clinics to share medical data with the University of York. All but one of the adult gender clinics refused to co-operate with this vital research. The Secretary of State for Health was clear in her Oral Statement to the Other Place on 15 April that this is deplorable and a dereliction of their professional duty. The Secretary of State raised this issue with Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive of NHS England and we know following the publication of Dr Cass's report that all seven clinical leads for the adult gender services now intend to fully participate in this important work.

I hope the above responses prove useful. I am copying this letter to all Peers who contributed to the debate and will place a copy in the House Library.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roborough".

LORD ROBOROUGH

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