

Freedom of Information Request

Date of receipt:	16 October 2022
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Date of response: 11 November 2022

Gender identity issues relating to Bailiwick children under the age of 18

Request:

We should be grateful to receive information on gender identity issues relating to Bailiwick children under the age of 18.

For each year of the period 2015 to 2021 (inclusive) please confirm the following:

- 1. The amount of money spent by the States of Guernsey spent with NHS Tavistock GIDS;
- The breakdown of that spend by procedure (if no data is held showing breakdown by procedure, please provide any breakdown of the annual spend by any sub category if held);
- 3. The number of natal females and natal males referred to the NHS Tavistock GIDS;
- 4. The age range of those referred.

In addition, please confirm whether the Committee for Health and Social Care is reviewing (or intends to review) its policy on gender identity services in light of the the publication of that review and the subsequent direction to close the NHS Tavistock GIDS clinic.

Finally, will the Committee for Health and Social Care confirm that any review of its policy on gender identity services will take into account a broad range of evidence including, in particular:

- a) emerging evidence of the potentially harmful effects of GnRH antagonists (commonly referred to as puberty blockers);
- b) the apparent acceleration in rates of de-transition;

c) the high levels of co-morbid mental-health issues and autism in gender-distressed children and young people?

Response provided by The Committee *for* Health & Social Care:

- In 2020, HSC Finance changed the budget cost centres, so gender costs pre 2020 are not available, also budgets do not differentiate between children and adults attending GIDS. We can provide the total adult and child spend in 2020 and in 2021.
 - 2020 total adult and child gender funding: £26,817.80
 - 2021 total adult and child gender funding: £28,346.89

There is no record of any child attending GIDS during 2015 and 2016.

2. All monies were for initial diagnostic assessments and psychological therapy.

Breaking down costs by subcategory is difficult as each gender patient follows their own pathway and a significant number choose not to have full gender reconstruction surgery.

The costs that form part of the agreement with The London Transgender Clinic (LTC), which is for individuals aged 18 years and over, are commercially sensitive, as is standard practice in keeping with any NHS agreements. It is also worthy of note that costs are dependent on the care pathway that is agreed with the individual to meet their needs. The relevant policy that governs good practice is G1031 and is available to the public here: <u>Funding Prioritisation - States of Guernsey (gov.gg)</u>

The LTC provides a full range of therapeutic support, together with non-surgical and surgical services. Not everyone who engages with the Service will choose a surgical procedure.

To provide some context, since 2014 when HSC started funding gender treatment only 6 patients have had full gender reconstruction surgery.

An average annual cost for a gender patient would be as follows;

- £1400 for two psychological assessments.
- £300 for an annual review of hormone treatment.
- Total annual cost £1700.
- A significant number of gender patients choose not to have lower gender reconstruction surgery.

- 3. A total of 15 natal females and 8 natal males were referred to the NHS Tavistock GIDS.
- 4. Given the small numbers, we cannot provide specific details of age to maintain confidentiality. Presently HSC funds 33 gender patients aged 21 years and over and 25 patients aged 20 years and under to access services.

In response to the question regarding any review of the policy on gender identity services undertaken by the Committee for Health and Social Care:

- (a) any emerging evidence of the effects of GnRH antagonists (commonly referred to as puberty blockers) is the subject of ongoing National and International evaluation, and is not funded by HSC.
- (b) the acceleration in rates of de-transition is thought to be approximately 1% in adults, but up to 50% in children.
- (c) the levels of co-morbid mental-health issues and autism in gender-distressed children and young people is quoted differently depending upon sources but up to 1/3 GID patients are thought to be on the autistic spectrum.