

PE1876/KK: Accurately record the sex of people charged or convicted of rape or attempted rape

Sharon Dowey MSP written submission, 11 November 2025

I write in support of Petition PE1876, which calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to require Police Scotland, the Crown Office and the Scottish Court Service to accurately record the sex of people charged or convicted of rape or attempted rape.

Accurate data collection is essential for maintaining public trust in our justice system and in official statistics. Recording the sex of an accused or convicted person accurately is not about denying the identity of any individual or about diminishing the rights of transgender people. Rather, it is about ensuring the clarity and integrity of criminal data, which is necessary for research and policy development.

I am pleased to add my support to this petition and commend it to the Committee for further consideration.