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Dear Ms Field,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 15 June to the Convener of the Equality Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament.

In your letter you suggest that it would be prudent to await the final conclusions and recommendations of the Cass Review before proceeding with the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill.

As you know, the Cass Review is focussed on the provision of NHS gender identity healthcare for young people in England. The Bill reforms the process of obtaining legal gender recognition in Scotland, and as you say in your letter has the effect of removing the current link between the ability to gain legal recognition and the requirement for evidence of a clinical diagnosis of gender dysphoria. There is no direct link between the Cass Review and the Bill.

Given this, I would welcome clarification of why EHRC believe reform of legal gender recognition in Scotland should be dependent on a review of NHS services in England.

Your letter also refers to recognition of Scottish GRCs in the rest of the UK, which as you note is dependent on UK Government decisions. That is correct, it is for other governments and parliaments to decide how GRCs are recognised in their jurisdictions. I welcome EHRC consideration of the operation of the Equality Act 2010, which is consistent with your role. The Scottish Parliament will continue to make legislative decisions on devolved matters.

Yours sincerely,

**SHONA ROBISON**

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