

PBNI Disclosure Log – Response to Request

Request Reference: 023.51.17
Date of Request: 20 October 2017
Date of Response: 2 November 2017

Request

Q. Does Probation Board Northern Ireland have a policy or guidelines for the treatment of transgender probationers? If there are such guidelines, would it be possible to be either sent a copy of them electronically or if they are available on line, would it be possible to be sent a web address (URL) where the information can be found.

Q. Is the number of transgender probationers that have been in the Northern Irish probation system within the past twelve months recorded? If so what is that number. If the number of transgender probationers is not recorded, are there any plans to start recording that information.

Response

By probationers you confirmed you mean individuals subject to statutory supervision (service users).

PBNI does not currently have a policy or guidelines for the treatment of transgender probationers. PBNI does not currently monitor transgender in service users. In taking this decision PBNI is following the guidance produced by the Equality Commission as follows: -

Gender

A.8 As a general rule, gender can be monitored using a male/female split.

There is an issue as to whether, for section 75 purposes, the gender categories should also include an option for persons to indicate that they are transgendered ('trans' category). The small number of trans persons in the population does not in itself preclude the inclusion of a trans option. However, there is no population benchmark against which comparisons can be drawn. Further, there is insufficient research evidence as to how the category can best be incorporated into a self-identifying questionnaire.

PBNI has plans to introduce large scale equality monitoring (2019) with the introduction of its new case management system and will therefore consider monitoring of the trans category in line with the following Equality Commission Guidance:

A.9 Nonetheless, the trans category is an option to be considered if a large-scale survey (self-completed and in private), such as the ORC Civil Service Diversity Survey is being conducted.

Source: Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – [Monitoring Guidance](#) for Public Authorities.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications

If you are unhappy with the way PBNI has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review using our complaints procedure. A copy of our [complaints procedure](#) is available on our website www.pbni.org.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,

Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

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