



Paul Murphy  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**8<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**REF PQ: 15722/25**

Dear Mr Murphy,

We were asked to comment on a Parliamentary Question directed to the Minister for Health on recommendations on blood testing at the National Gender Service with reference to interpretation of hormone measurements.

Provision of clinical care of any kind (including gender affirming hormone therapy and surgical interventions) is based on a fundamental principle that to recommend any clinical intervention the apparent benefits of that intervention should exceed any apparent risks.

The approved model of care in practice at the National Gender Service is based on a comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment that results in a formulation of risk and benefit that informs a recommendation on clinical intervention. This assessment takes into account all aspects of a person's health and wellbeing, rather than focusing only on gender and gender dysphoria. An outline of the assessment process is on our website [www.nationalgenderserviceireland.com](http://www.nationalgenderserviceireland.com)

When people are on hormones, hormone concentrations can be monitored but hormone measurements are not proven to risk stratify or risk manage care in this clinical scenario. Hormone levels can be a measure to guide treatment decisions in some scenarios, such as requests to increase hormone doses. Hormone blood measurements are reported within reference ranges (as are most blood tests) that vary depending on the assays (blood test measurement technique) used by the laboratory. Information on specific tests and on the





concept of reference ranges can be found in the National Laboratory Handbook at  
[www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/lsr/resources/national%20laboratory%20handbook.html](http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/cspd/lsr/resources/national%20laboratory%20handbook.html)

We hope the above has been clear and useful.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Yagoub Gader,

*Consultant Endocrinologist, St Columcilles Hospital Loughlinstown*