

Paul Murphy

3rd March 2025

Dear Deputy Murphy,

REF PQ: 6646/25

We were asked to comment on a Parliamentary Question directed to the Minister for Health on clinical practice at the National Gender Service with respect to offering clinical training and advice.

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

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

While gender is one important aspect of the risk/benefit assessment, we also explore non-gender aspects like social health and occupational function. This is because the most common complications of medical transition are a decline in social function, a decline in general wellbeing, and a deterioration in mental health. To reduce the risk of these complications, we must understand a person as a whole person in a social context.

We do not recommend prescribing gender affirming hormone therapy in the absence of a comprehensive holistic multidisciplinary assessment, or if after such an assessment, the apparent risks exceed the apparent benefits. This is because in this clinical scenario, the risk of harm is greater than the risk of benefit.

Other healthcare practitioners and organisations, both nationally and internationally, regularly seek advice, guidance, training, or academic collaboration from the Clinical team in the National Gender Service. When possible, staff at the National Gender Service provide that advice, guidance, training or academic collaboration.

We hope the above has been clear and useful.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Yagoub Gader

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