



Mairéad Farrell  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

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

**REF PQ: 22261/25**

Dear Ms Farrell,

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 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)

While gender is one important aspect of the risk/benefit assessment, we usually spend a lot more time on non-gender aspects like social health and occupational function. This is because the most common complications of medical transition are decline in social and/or occupational function, and deterioration of mental health.

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, both from Ireland and other jurisdictions, regularly seek advice, guidance, or training, from the National Gender Service. When possible, staff at the National Gender Service provide that advice, guidance, or training. This is done in addition to their working week, and so does not incur any cost to the service.

We hope the above has been clear and useful.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Yagoub Gader,

*Consultant Endocrinologist, St Columcilles Hospital Loughlinstown*