

17<sup>th</sup> June 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I was asked to comment on a Parliamentary Question directed to the Minister for Health on adverse events at the National Gender Service.

Medical transition is associated with a risk of psychosocial decline, such as social withdrawal resulting in increased social isolation, loss of occupation, homelessness, and adverse mental health outcomes including development of chronic and enduring mental illness, and suicide.

There have been a number of deaths by suicide, as well as a number of high lethality suicide attempts, in people attending the National Gender Service over the years. Similarly, decline in social and occupational functioning, social isolation, homelessness, development of addiction, and development of psychiatric illness have all been noted in people attending the National Gender Service over the years. Implementation of the new National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) will facilitate more accurate capture of data over time.

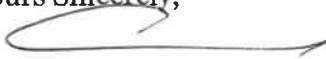
Any clinical intervention (including gender affirming hormone therapy and surgical intervention) will be associated with risks as well as benefits. Clinical practice is based on a fundamental principle that to recommend any clinical intervention the apparent benefits should exceed any apparent risks.

The 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.nationalgenderserviceireland.com](http://www.nationalgenderserviceireland.com)

Our observation has been that since applying our current Model of Care in 2019, which was formulated to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks associated with medical transition, the frequency of these events has lessened.

I hope the above has been clear and useful.

Yours Sincerely,



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