

Kiri Tunks, Judith Green, Ruth
Serwotka
Co-founders, Woman's Place UK
PO Box 1344
Cambridge,
CB1 0DP
By email only

Our ref: 706WPUK
Monday 8 February 2021

Dear Ms Tunks, Ms Green, and Ms Serwotka,

Collecting data on sex and gender

Thank you for your email of 20 January 2021 to Rebecca Hilsenrath. I have been asked to reply.

You say that the statement provided to the Chief Statistician and Mr O'Neill's opinion are not equivalent. The two certainly don't serve the same purpose. As noted previously, our statement is not legal advice and is not intended to provide detail of the law in this area. Mr O'Neill has provided you with an in-depth legal opinion. However as detailed in our letter of 16 December 2020, our statement is clearly qualified. It does not say that it will always be unlawful to collect data on sex assigned at birth and particularly notes that the question to be addressed is what the information collected is to be used for. We therefore do not see a basis for withdrawing the statement.

You ask whether we have advised ONS on plans for the 2021 census in

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England and Wales. We, alongside other stakeholders and experts, have provided advice on a range of issues regarding collection of data on protected characteristics; specifically through the Census Advisory Group, several workshops roundtables and 1-2-1 meetings since 2016. We have also produced reports which may have informed the work of the ONS on the census, for example our work on developing gender identity questions.

I can confirm that we have no objection to you publishing this correspondence. We remain happy to discuss the issues you have raised. Do let me know if you would like us to arrange a suitable meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Melanie Field

Executive Director, Corporate Strategy and Policy, and Wales |

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