



The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
By Email

19th July 2024

Dear Wes,

We are writing to you with serious concerns regarding your recent statement made via social media on 14th July 2024, and its potential impact on young trans and gender-questioning people and their healthcare.¹

As constituency MPs, we each represent areas with relatively larger numbers of trans citizens, including many who are under eighteen, and others with lived experience of being a young trans person who want to make life better for future generations.

We listened to young trans people and their families during the election, learning about their existing challenges in accessing suitable and timely healthcare. We have felt and share their desperate worry that the Government may make their situation even more difficult than it already is.

We had hoped that the temporary ban on the prescription of puberty blockers for young people imposed by the Conservatives would be reconsidered and removed under Labour. We are therefore extremely disappointed that you appear to have decided to follow through with a permanent and highly restrictive ban on prescribing puberty blockers for gender-affirming care for under-18s.

Since your statement, we have received correspondence from many constituents who share our concerns.

The proposed restrictions are currently under legal challenge, and we are optimistic that they will be ruled unlawful.

Specifically, in response to your statement, we are concerned that you:

- Seem to be planning to make a decision at a ministerial level that is more appropriate for individual healthcare professionals and the proper healthcare and medical bodies;
- Have gone further than the Cass Review recommendations, which stated that, where puberty blockers are used, this should be part of clinical trials to better understand their effectiveness and long-term impacts;

¹ Streeting, W. (2024) [X, formerly Twitter] 14 July. Available at - <https://x.com/wesstreeting/status/1812435914473295927?t=kJi4SCut9ZOFXiu2Pi6Kg&s=19>.



Carla Denyer MP
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- Indicated that you consulted with leading campaigners who oppose many aspects of trans equality but have not indicated any engagement with trans people, their families, and their representatives;
- Have not addressed other recommendations of the Cass Review, such as increasing funding for trans healthcare to ensure more people can access specialist advice;
- Have not said you will assure continuity of care for those who already have prescriptions for puberty blockers agreed and provided by their doctors.

We hope you will provide a clear assurance that you are willing to listen and meet with representatives of trans young people, their families, and their healthcare providers before making any final decision to intervene in clinical practice in this way.

We would also like to receive from you a commitment that any new policy from your department will empower clinicians to make individualised decisions about the appropriate range of treatments and support for each young person, based on an understanding of their specific situation and needs.

We should be grateful for your response.

Yours sincerely,

Carla Denyer MP, Bristol Central.

Siân Berry MP, Brighton Pavilion.