



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

August 2017

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about gender identification.

This Bill was expected to have its second reading debate on Friday 12 May 2017. However, as the General Election was called and Parliament dissolved from the 3rd May 2017, the Bill has fallen.

I am encouraged by the commitment to equality and I know hard work is underway to build a society that celebrates and benefits from the talents of everyone. This ensures fairness protects the most vulnerable and prioritises equal opportunities for all.

The UK is a world leader for transgender rights, and I welcome the progress that has already been made in this area. I know that guidance has been provided to employers and service providers to ensure that transphobic bullying is tackled head on. I am also encouraged that gender dysphoria is no longer considered a mental illness and gender identity services will be improved through new training of NHS staff.

Further to this, a new action plan is being developed in order to achieve greater transgender equality. This includes a consultation as part of the review of the Gender Recognition Act to consider options for streamlining the process for legally changing gender.

However, more must be done to help transgender people with the unique and often difficult challenges that they face. I am encouraged that issues such as gender self-declaration are being considered and I will closely follow the progress made in this area.

Once again, many thanks for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY