

PE1817/A

Scottish Government submission of 17 July 2020

Thank you for your email of 16 July, which sought the Scottish Government's views on this petition.

The Scottish Government does not support or advocate the practice of conversion therapy in the UK. We regard it as unethical, harmful, and as having no place in Scotland. The former Chief Medical Officer Catherine Calderwood was signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding on conversion therapy in 2017; other signatories included the National Medical Director of NHS England and range of other professional bodies, such as the UK Council for Psychotherapy, the British Psychological Society, and the Royal College of GPs. The Memorandum of Understanding can be found [here](#).

The UK Government have made a commitment to ban conversion therapy in their LGBT Action Plan, which was published in 2018. In terms of evidence to underpin that commitment, according to their 2017 National LGBT Survey, 2% of respondents had undergone conversion or reparative therapy, and a further 5% had been offered it (it is important to note that the survey was self-selecting, and online-only). The Scottish Government fully supports moves by the UK Government to end conversion therapy, and officials here are engaging with the UK Government as they develop proposals.

I hope this information is helpful in supporting the Committee's consideration of this Petition.