

## **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Claims of Asylum: A European human rights challenge – SOGICA**

For the attention of the Freedom of Information Officer, Home Office

19 February 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a revised request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It has been revised based on the response by J Rushton of 19 February (FOI Reference: 52142).

Please will you provide the information requested below by email with the relevant attachments within the 20 working days specified. This information is not publicly available in the form or with the level of detail requested. It is required in the public interest for the completion of the [SOGICA research project](#).

The questions are in order of priority. If responding to all questions would exceed the cost limit for complying, then please provide answers to as many questions as possible starting at question 1.

1. Asylum decisions
  - 1.1. How do Home Office caseworkers identify whether an asylum applicant's claim is based on sexual orientation or gender identity or has a sexual orientation or gender identity dimension? If this is by asking set questions, what are these questions and at what stage of the asylum process does it happen?
  - 1.2. For how long has the Home Office been recording this information?
  - 1.3. How is this information held centrally by the Home Office?
  - 1.4. Within the category of asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation, does the Home Office keep separate records for claims on the basis of a lesbian identity, claims on the basis of a gay identity, and claims on the basis of a bisexual identity? If so, how far do these figures date back?
  - 1.5. Can the Home Office provide a breakdown by gender and by country of the Experimental statistics: Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation published in November 2018?
  - 1.6. Does the Home Office have figures differentiating asylum claims, determinations, appeals and appeal decisions for people claiming asylum on the basis of gender identity, and if so, how far do these figures date back and is it possible to provide data for 2015, 2016 and 2017 on the same basis as the Experimental statistics: Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation?
  - 1.7. Does the Home Office have figures differentiating asylum claims, determinations, appeals and appeal decisions for the people claiming asylum on the basis of intersex variation and if so, how far do these figures date back and is it possible to provide data for 2015, 2016 and 2017 on the same basis as the Experimental statistics: Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation?

- 1.8. Does the Home Office plan to publish asylum statistics relating to gender identity or intersex variation and if so, when?
- 1.9. Does the Home Office record the reason for refusals and the different basis on which applications are refused?

2. Training

- 2.1. What training do case workers receive on handling asylum claims relating to sexual orientation or gender identity and who provides this training?
- 2.2. How regularly is refresher training provided?
- 2.3. Is training mandatory for all case workers?
- 2.4. Does the Home Office monitor the sexual orientation and gender identity of asylum case workers for equality purposes?

3. COMPASS contracts

- 3.1. Are asylum claimants who are provided with accommodation through the regional COMPASS contracts entitled to ask for accommodation specific to their sexual orientation or gender identity? If so, what criteria or guidelines are given to COMPASS contractors to assess these requests?
- 3.2. What Home Office guidance, training and contractual requirements are in place for COMPASS contract holders to ensure that LGBTQI+ asylum claimants are not subject to homophobic or transphobic bullying and violence, including by staff and by other service users in shared asylum accommodation?
- 3.3. Are individuals claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation identified as vulnerable adults for the purpose of providing asylum accommodation?
- 3.4. Are individuals claiming asylum on the basis of gender identity identified as vulnerable adults for the purpose of providing asylum accommodation?

Please contact me if any clarification is required or if you would like further information about the SOGICA project.

Your sincerely,

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