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**SCOTTISH
LESBIANS**

Dear Mr Streeting,

Scottish Lesbians is an organisation representing the rights and needs of lesbians in Scotland. We recently intervened, together with LGB Alliance and The Lesbian Project, in the UK Supreme Court case brought by For Women Scotland concerning the definition of 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010. We advocate for single-sex, lesbian-only spaces and for all lesbians, particularly younger lesbians, to be able to find support and community.

We are writing to you today regarding the forthcoming Pathways Trial at King's College London. We note that you have expressed your own discomfort with this trial; we also wish to voice our concerns about this clinical trial, which involves children and young people who we know are disproportionately likely to be same-sex attracted.

Our opposition to the Pathways Trial is based on three broad areas of concern:

- (1) There is already a body of evidence documenting the impacts, risks and side effects of puberty-blocking medication; therefore, a new trial is not needed;
- (2) The potential harm to participants in the Pathways Trial cannot be outweighed by the benefit of new knowledge, given point (1);
- (3) Such a trial must be understood in the context of young people who may be struggling with early feelings of same-sex attraction and who need to be supported to manage the feelings of distress, confusion and overwhelm that this can entail.