



Gender Recognition Certificate Partner Training Pack

HMCTS Digital Support Service

Date: 02/06/2025

In this presentation

- 1. What is the Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC)?
- 2. Who can apply
- 3. Before you start: Pre-form page
- 4. Email address & starting an application
- 5. Applicant eligibility and affirmed gender
- 6. Your personal details
- 7. Birth registration information
- 8. Marriage or civil partnership details
- 9. Uploading your supporting documents
- Reviewing the application & making a declaration
- 11. Submitting and paying
- 12. Confirmation and next steps
- 13. Input methods used in this form
- 14. Summary of partner responsibilities
- 15. Questions and contact information

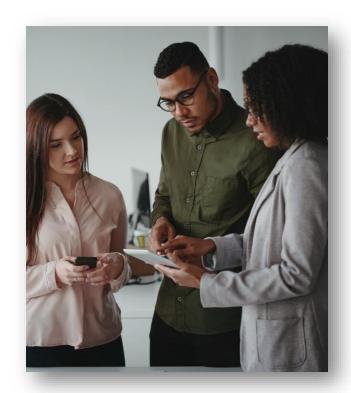
Key partner role

As a partner, your role is to support users through the procedural journey of the application.

You can help by:

- Explaining the steps of the form
- Supporting users to gather documentation
- Signposting to legal advice when necessary
- Making sure users understand what happens next

Only qualified professionals (e.g. solicitors or registered advocates) can offer legal advice or represent at hearings.

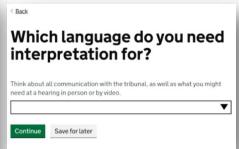




Common HMCTS form input methods







Upload the full decision letter It could be a posted letter or a letter attached to an email. It will be addressed from the local authority and will talk about the child or young person's assessment outcome. You can upload a photo of the letter. Upload a file Choose File No file chosen You can add up to 10 files (maximum 7MB per file) Continue Save for later

Multiple choice (Radio buttons / checkboxes)

What it is: User selects one or more answers from a list.

Partner tip: Read all options aloud for accessibility. Clarify where multiple selections are allowed.

Free text boxes

What it is: Open fields where users can type explanations, names, or additional information.

Partner tip: Encourage clarity and brevity. Users should explain things in plain language. Offer to type if they dictate and consent.

Drop-down menus

What it is: Click-to-expand menus with a list of predefined options.

Partner tip: Make sure users scroll fully through the list. Explain unfamiliar terms as needed.

File upload

What it is: Users can attach supporting documents

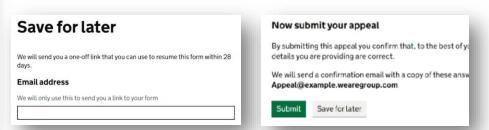
Partner tip: Check files are in supported formats (PDF, Word, JPEG, etc.). Ensure filenames are clear and professional.



Common HMCTS form input methods (cont.)







Date selectors

What it is: Date-picking tools (e.g. calendar pop-ups) used for deadlines or decision dates.

Partner tip: Confirm correct format (day/month/year). Cross-check dates in documents to avoid errors.

Yes/No toggle questions

What it is: Simple binary questions throughout the form.

Partner tip: Help users think through the implications of their answers (e.g. "Do you need an interpreter?").

Email verification fields

What it is: Email entry followed by a confirmation code or verification link.

Partner tip: Ensure users have live access to their email during the session. Offer help navigating between browser tabs if needed.

Buttons

What it is: Clickable elements used to take action in the form — e.g. to continue, go back, upload files, save progress, or submit the appeal.

Partner tip: Explain what each button does before clicking. Make sure required fields are completed to avoid errors when clicking "Continue" or "Submit."



What is a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC)?

A Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) is a legal document issued by the Gender Recognition Panel that enables a person to:

- Be legally recognised in their affirmed gender
- Update a birth or adoption certificate, if it was registered in the UK
- Update a marriage or civil partnership certificate, if it was registered in the UK.

A GRC enables an affirmed gender to be legally recognised in the UK where they have been living as that gender for 2 or more years. The application is available **online**, supported by statutory declarations and evidence depending on the application route.

You can only be recognised as male or female – non-binary genders are not legally recognised in the UK.

More info:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate



Who Can Apply for a GRC?

To apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC), a person must:

- be aged 18 or over
- been diagnosed with gender dysphoria in the UK
- been living in their affirmed gender for at least 2 years
- intend to live in this gender for the rest of their life.
- be aged 18 or over
- have a document showing their affirmed gender is legally recognised in that country or territory.'

More information:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate/how-to-apply



What documents are required?

Stop, read this, it's essential!

Which documents the user needs to upload will depend upon their circumstances. Please support the user by suggesting they use the 'document checker' below to confirm which documents they need to upload to the application form.

Document Checker: <u>Before you start - Check documents needed to apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate - GOV.UK</u>

If the applicant does not wish to use the document checker then they can find information provided on Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) required documents by GOV.UK here:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate/what-documents-you-need



Start of the application – pre form page

Before starting the online form, users are advised to review key eligibility and process information on GOV.UK.

The page explains:

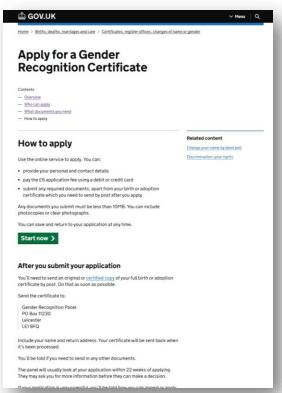
- Who can apply
- The application costs can be found here
- Supporting documents must be uploaded digitally save birth or adoption certificates. These must be posted after application as original/certified copies are required.
- The decision is made by the **Gender Recognition Panel**.

Partner tip:

- Encourage users to read this page fully before beginning
- Remind them they can **prepare documents in advance** (e.g. diagnosis letters, ID scans)
- Let them know the application can be saved and returned to later after starting

Reference:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate/how-to-apply





Email address & save for later

The form requires a valid email address for:

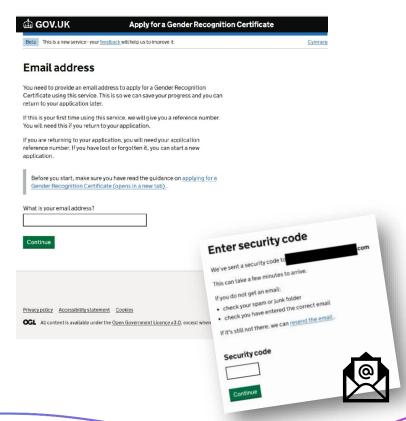
- Receiving a **verification link** (no passwords)
- Saving progress and returning later

Users must enter an email address and confirm it via a link before progressing.

Partner tip:

Make sure the user has access to their email inbox during the session

Let them know the <u>return link</u> is only valid for 28 days If they don't have access or don't use email, they'll need to complete the form in one go (not recommended).





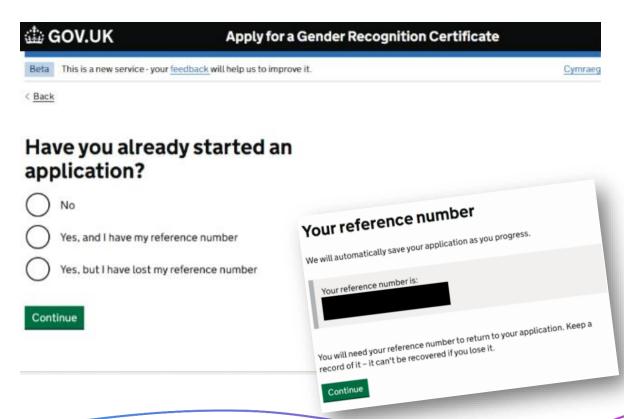
Returning to an application

Users can return to a partially completed application (provided they have the reference number).

Example Reference Number format: SOUG-B3Q9

Partner Tip:

Get the user to keep a record the reference number as its essential to returning to the application.





Notifying the General Register Office

Applicants are asked to confirm:

Whether they consent to the General Register Office (GRO) being contacted about their application

This allows the General Register Office (GRO) to update records, including the user's birth certificate and, if relevant, a marriage or civil partnership certificate.

Partner tip:

- This is required for applicants born in the UK, or married/partnered in England, Wales, or Scotland
- The GRO uses this consent to prepare new documents after the certificate is granted
- Users **must** tick "I consent" if they want to continue, as the process cannot proceed without it

Notifying the General Register Office If you were born in the UK, the Gender Recognition Panel will tell the relevant General Register Office about your application.

This will include telling them if you are married or in a civil partnership registered in England and Wales or Scotland and you are applying for gender recognition while remaining married or in a civil partnership.

After you receive your certificate, the General Register Office will contact you about your new birth certificate and, if appropriate, a new certificate for your marriage or civil partnership.

Do you consent to the General Register Office	e contacting
you about your application?	

	I conse
--	---------

Continue

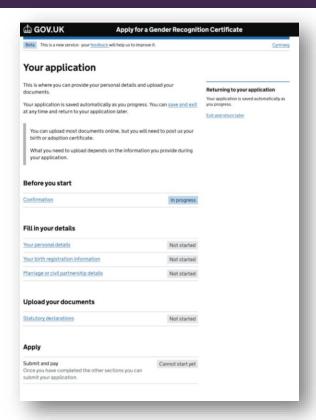


Your application screen (AKA – task list)

The application screen allows new and returning applicants to see their progress with completion of the form, they can click the blue text to go to or start an area of the application.

Partner tip:

- This page can expand and change depending on where the user is in the process and what responses they have given
- These screens often have useful information on the right-hand panel
- Some parts of the application cannot be started until other parts are marked as completed.





Gender identity and history

Users are asked to confirm:

- Their **affirmed gender** (male or female)
- The date they transitioned The month and year of their transition.
 The date must be the same as on their gender recognition statutory
 declaration. It must be at least 2 years before they submit their
 application for a Gender Recognition Certificate.
- The date they signed their statutory declaration

Partner tip:

- Users may not recall an exact date
- If the applicant already has recognition from outside of the UK, they'll be prompted to upload proof later.

Reference:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate/how-to-apply

When did you transition? Enter the month and year of your transition. For example, this could be when you changed your name by deed poll, or when you told friends or family you were changing your gender. The date must be the same as on your gender recognition statutory declaration. It must be at least 2 years before you submit your application for a Gender Recognition Certificate. Month Year Save and continue Return to task list

When did you sign your statutory declaration?
Enter the date you signed your gender recognition statutory declaration in front of someone authorised to administer oaths.
Day Month Year
Save and continue Return to task list



Notifying HMRC

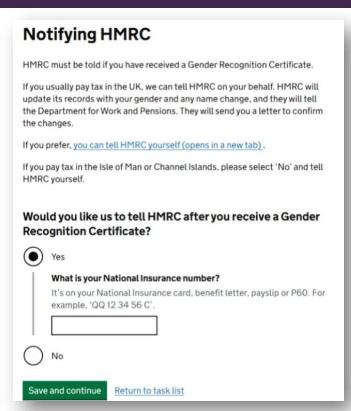
HMRC need to be informed when users receive a Gender Recognition Certificate. HMCTS can do this for the user, or they can do it themselves. If the user would like HMCTS to tell HMRC they must enter their National Insurance number.

Partner tip:

• If the user selects Yes, their gender and name will be updated with HMRC and shared with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Reference:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate/how-to-apply





The "Your birth registration information" section

This section asks the user for information on their application to the official birth or adoption record.

Users are asked to provide:

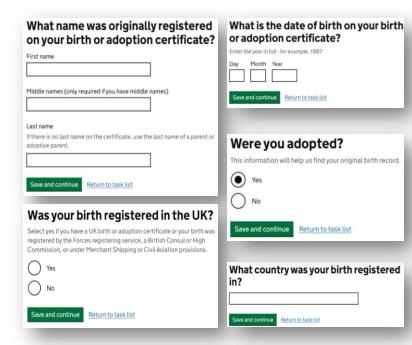
- Name registered at birth or adoption
- Date of birth
- Country of birth
- District or county of birth
- Mothers or first parent's full name
- Fathers or second parent's name (if applicable)
- Whether they were adopted. If Yes: date and place of adoption

Partner tip:

These details must match exactly what's shown on the applicant's birth certificate (or adoption certificate if adopted).

Reference:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognitioncertificate/what-documents-you-need





Nationality and place of birth

The form collects the following:

- Country of birth
- Town or city of birth
- Nationality

Partner tip:

 Use information from passports or birth certificates where available

Was your birth registered in the UK? Select yes if you have a UK birth or adoption certificate or your birth was registered by the Forces registering service, a British Consul or High Commission, or under Merchant Shipping or Civil Aviation provisions. Yes No Return to task list



Check your answers screen

This screen allows users to review and edit their answers before moving on.

It's important to note that this screen can look different depending on the answers provided, for example if the person was not adopted, they will have less questions to answer and therefore less options on this screen to edit.

Partner tip:

- Remind the applicant to review the information carefully.
- They can click the blue text to "jump" to that section to update the information they provided.

Birth name	ху	Chan
Date of birth	10 September 1991	Chan
Birth registered in UK	Yes	Chan
Town or city of birth	Pompey	Chan
Mother's name	D X (Maiden name: Y)	Chan
Father's name listed	Yes	Chan
Father's name	XY	Chan
Adopted	No	Chan
Forces registering service, British Consul or High Commission, or under Merchant Shipping or Civil Aviation provisions	Yes	<u>Chan</u>



The "Marriage or civil partnership details" section

This section affects whether the applicant is eligible for a full or interim GRC.

Users are asked to confirm:

- Whether they are married, in a civil partnership, or neither
- The date and country of their marriage or partnership (if applicable) & partner's details (with consent)
- Whether their spouse or civil partner agrees to stay married or civil partnered after the Gender Recognition Certificate is issued

Partner tip:

- If the applicant is married or in a civil partnership, they'll need to upload a copy of their certificate later
- If their spouse or partner does not agree to stay married, they will
 be issued an interim GRC instead, this is a temporary certificate
 which can be used to end the marriage or civil partnership.

Reference:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate

Marriages and civil partnerships If you've ever been married or in a civil partnership, you need to upload a scan or good quality photograph of your marriage or civil partnership certificates. Are you currently married or in a civil partnership? If you are in the process of ending, or you plan to end your marriage or civil partnership, you should select your current legal status Married Interim Gender Recognition Certificate Civil partnership When you apply for a certificate, your civil partner needs to sign a document if you want to stay in a civil partnership If they do not sign the document, or you're ending the civil partnership. you will get an 'interim' certificate if you continue with your application. You can only use the interim certificate to end your civil partnership. Save and continue Return to task list You have 6 months to apply for an annulment, divorce or dissolution from when you get your interim certificate. You will get a full certificate once you're no longer in a civil partnership. Declaration of consent Continue If you intend to remain in a civil partnership, your civil partner needs to fill in a statutory declaration for civil partners (opens in a new tab), and sign it in front of someone authorised to administer oaths. Can you provide a statutory declaration from your civil partner? Return to task list



Spouse statutory declaration (if married)

If the applicant is married or in a civil partnership and wishes to **remain married** after obtaining a GRC:

- Their spouse or partner must complete and sign Form T469
- This confirms they agree to remain in the relationship once the applicant's legal gender is changed

The form must be:

- Witnessed by a solicitor or commissioner for oaths
- Uploaded as part of the application
- If the spouse refuses to sign, the user will receive an interim GRC and must obtain a
 divorce before applying for a full certificate.

Partner tip:

Handle this section with sensitivity, some users may be experiencing relationship breakdown or domestic conflict

Users may want to consider legal advice if consent is refused

More info:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate/married-or-in-a-civil-partnership



The "Upload your documents" section

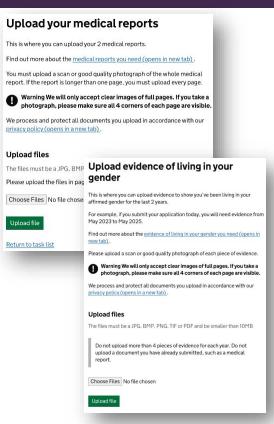
Users are asked to upload supporting documents across four areas:

- Medical reports*
- Evidence of living in their gender*
- Marriage or civil partnership certificate*
- Statutory declarations*
- * The documents required will change depending on answers to some of the questions in the form. The document checker (Link) can be used if needed.

Partner tip:

These documents form the legal and evidential basis of the application. Encourage users to prepare all documents before starting this section. Most uploads must be clearly scanned or photographed, showing full pages and names/dates where relevant. Clear file names like "MedicalReport-June2024" are helpful.

Reference: https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate/what-documents-you-need





Upload medical reports

Where users are required to upload medical reports, the following is needed:

- Two medical reports written by authors who are registered in the UK (they can be two different medical doctors or a medical doctor and a clinical psychologist)
- The first report needs to confirm a gender dysphoria diagnosis and the clinical history it was based on and needs to be written by a registered doctor or clinical psychologist who practices in the field of gender dysphoria
- At least one of the reports must include details of any gender affirmation treatment received or planned
- The second report can be written by any registered doctor or clinical psychologist (registered in the UK)

Upload your medical reports

This is where you can upload your 2 medical reports.

Find out more about the medical reports you need (opens in new tab).

You must upload a scan or good quality photograph of the whole medical report. If the report is longer than one page, you must upload every page.

Warning We will only accept clear images of full pages. If you take a photograph, please make sure all 4 corners of each page are visible.

photograph, please make sure all 4 corners of each page are visible.

We process and protect all documents you upload in accordance with our privacy policy (opens in a new tab).

Upload files

The files must be a JPG, BMP, PNG, TIF or PDF and be smaller than 10MB

Please upload the files in page order if you can.

Choose Files No file chosen

Upload file

Return to task list



Uploading evidence of living in affirmed gender

Where users need to upload documents that they have lived in their affirmed gender for 2 years, applicants must provide **proof**.

Examples of acceptable documents include:

- Payslips, bank statements, tenancy agreements
- Utility bills or official letters (e.g. NHS, HMRC)
- Passport, driving licence or deed poll showing affirmed name
- Employment or education records using affirmed gender

Partner tip:

- Documents should show name, date, and address (if applicable)
- Recommend uploading at least 3–6 documents spread over the 2-year period
- Ensure scans or photos are clear and complete cropped documents may be rejected

More info:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate/what-documents-you-need

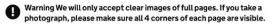
Upload evidence of living in your gender

This is where you can upload evidence to show you've been living in your affirmed gender for the last 2 years.

For example, if you submit your application today, you will need evidence from May 2023 to May 2025.

Find out more about the evidence of living in your gender you need (opens in new tab).

Please upload a scan or good quality photograph of each piece of evidence.



We process and protect all documents you upload in accordance with our $\underline{\text{privacy policy (opens in a new tab)}}$.

Upload files

The files must be a JPG, BMP, PNG, TIF or PDF and be smaller than 10MB

Do not upload more than 4 pieces of evidence for each year. Do not upload a document you have already submitted, such as a medical report.

Choose Files No file chosen

Upload file



Uploading the statutory declaration

All users must upload a **statutory declaration**.

The declaration must be:

- Signed in the presence of an <u>authorised witness</u> (e.g. solicitor, commissioner for oaths)
- Dated and scanned or photographed clearly for upload
 Partner tip:
- Users can find a solicitor locally to witness the declaration
- Guide them on completing Form T467 (standard statutory declaration)
- Check the image or PDF is clear and legible before upload
 More info:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gender-recognition-certificate-statutory-declarations-for-applicants

Upload statutory declarations documents

This is where you can upload copies of all required statutory declarations.

You must upload either:

- · a statutory declaration for single applicants
- a statutory declaration for applicants who are married or in a civil partnership

If you fill out the statutory declaration for applicants who are married or in a civil partnership and you intend to stay in that marriage or civil partnership after you receive a certificate, you must also upload a statutory declaration signed by your spouse or civil partner.

Follow the <u>guidance on statutory declarations (opens in a new tab)</u> to find out which declaration is right for you and who can act as a witness when you sign your declaration.

You must upload a scan or good quality photograph of your documents. If the document is longer than one page, you must upload every page.

Warning We will only accept clear images of full pages. If you take a photograph, please make sure all 4 corners of each page are visible.

We process and protect all documents you upload in accordance with our privacy policy (opens in a new tab).

Upload files

The files must be a JPG, BMP, PNG, TIF or PDF and be smaller than 10MB

Choose Files No file chosen

Upload file

Return to task list



Submit and pay

The application has a fee(<u>Fee Info</u>), payable online by debit or credit card.

If the user would like to apply for help paying the fee this can be done using Form **EX160** (Help with Fees).

Payment options:

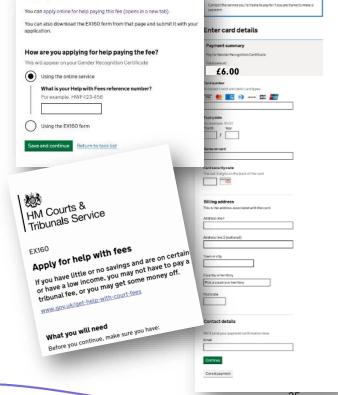
- Pay now by card
- Choose 'Help with Fees' and upload the completed EX160 form
- Upload financial evidence (e.g. benefits letter, income details)

Partner tip:

- Ensure the EX160 form is fully completed and signed
- If applying for Help with Fees, the GRC application may be paused while the decision on fees is made
- The user **does not need to delay submission** waiting for Help with Fees outcome, they can upload the reference and continue

More info:

https://www.gov.uk/get-help-with-court-fees



Applying for help with the fee

Final summary screen

At the end of the application, the user will:

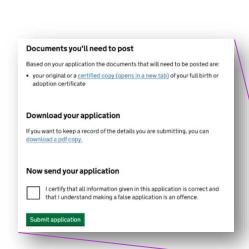
- Review a summary of all answers (Click the blue text to change any answers)
- Tick a box to confirm that everything they have said is true.
 There are serious legal consequences for making a false statement of truth.
- Click 'Submit application'

After submission:

They will see a **confirmation screen** and receive an email receipt (next slide).

Partner tip:

- Help the user review answers for accuracy
- Ensure all required document uploads are completed









Post application emails

Once the user submits and pays, they'll see a confirmation screen. They will also receive a confirmation email (if they chose to receive updates by email) containing information about what happens next or what they need to do.

This marks the end of the digital application process. Partner tip:

- Remind users that they need to follow the guidance and post original birth or adoption certificate as instructed to:
- Always check the application submitted screen for the correct postal address.
- They should include their name and return address so that it can be sent back when processed.
- Reassure users that their documents and evidence will now be reviewed by the Gender Recognition Panel, they'll be contacted if anything else is needed. They should receive a decision in 22 weeks.
- Encourage them to save or print the confirmation page and email.

Application submitted

You should post all remaining documents to us as soon as possible

We have sent you a confirmation email.

What you need to do next

Post your birth or adoption certificate to us as soon as possible – include your name, address and application reference number so we can match it to your application. Send either an original or a certified copy (opens in a new tab) – it will be posted back to you.

You also need to post an EX160 form (opens in a new tab)

If you are sending documents by Royal Mail (including tracked, special delivery, signed for and Parcelforce), send to:

Gender Recognition Panel PO Box 9300 Leicester LEI 8DJ

If you are sending documents by courier (for example, DPD, Evri, Fedex), please contact us first (details below).

You can green a birth, death, marriage or civil partnership certificate (opens in a new tab) ordine if you live in England and Wates. There's a different process for getting certificates in Scotland (opens in a new tab) and getting certificates in Northern legisling fopens in a new tab).

(A) Warning Do not send us any other documents unless we ask you to.

What happens next with your application

Once you've sent your documents, your application will be reviewed by the Gerder Recognition Panel. This usually happens within 30 weeks of you applying.

We will let you know if your application has any errors or missing documents, or if the Panel needs any more information. We will ensure you have the time you need to provide any missing or additional information.

You will then be told if you will be issued with a Gender Recognition Certificate, and what you can do if your application has not been accepted.

If you need to contact us

Include your application reference number – we will send this to you by post when we have received your application.

If you need to contact us before you have received your application reference number, include your full name and postcode.

GRPenguiries@justice.gov.uk Telephone: 020 3936 8968 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Find out about call charges (opens in a new tab)

GOV.UK

Your application for a Gender Recognition Certificate has been

What you need to do next

Post the rest of your documents as soon as possible – include your name and address so we can match them to your application.

You need to post:

- your original or a certified copy (https://www.gov.uk/certifyinga-document) of your full birth certificate
- an EX160 form (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-helpwith-court-and-tribunal-fees)

Your documents will be posted back to you.

Send to:

Gender Recognition Panel PO Box 9300 Leicester

LE1 8DJ

If sending documents by courier, please contact us first (details below).

You can <u>order a birth, death, marriage or civil partnership</u> <u>certificate online if you live in England and Wales. There's a different process for getting <u>certificates in Scotland</u> and Northern Ireland.</u>

Your application will then be reviewed by the Gender Recognition Panel. You will be contacted if they need more information.

You will then be told if you will be issued with a Gender Recognition Certificate, and what you can do if your application has not been accepted.

The panel will usually look at your application within 30 weeks of applying.

If we need to contact you by post in the next 6 months, please let us know if there are any dates we should avoid (for example, if you are away on holiday).

If you need to contact us

Include your application reference number – we will post this when we have received your application.

If you need to contact us before this, include your full name and nostrode

GRPenquiries@justice.gov.uk Telephone: 020 3936 8968 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Find out about call charges





Questions and further support

Useful gov.uk resources:

Document Checker:

Before you start - Check documents needed to apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate - GOV.UK

Application overview:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate

Required documents:

https://www.gov.uk/apply-gender-recognition-certificate/what-documents-you-need

Help with Fees (EX160):

https://www.gov.uk/get-help-with-court-fees

Statutory declaration guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gender-recognition-certificate-statutory-declarations-for-applicants



Summary – any questions?

Thank you for taking part in this GRC training. If you have further questions about your role or need support, please contact:

We Are Group Community Partnerships Network Team Network@wearegroup.com

You can also revisit this pack at any time or access the online resources for up-to-date guidance and support links at <u>HMCTS Network Training</u>





Any questions?





Thank you!