

Guidance

Code of practice consultation 2025: changes that apply across the code

Published: 20 May 2025

Last updated: 20 May 2025

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This page is part of our consultation on our code of practice for services, public functions and associations. We previously consulted on this code of practice between 2 October 2024 and 3 January 2025.

We are opening another consultation on the code to gather feedback on changes we have made following the UK Supreme Court ruling on 16 April 2025 in *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers (For Women Scotland)*.

Before you respond to the consultation or provide feedback on this chapter, [read our information about the consultation](#).

Updated legal definition of sex

We have updated the definition of 'legal sex' throughout the code of practice. Our previous definition explained that:

‘Legal sex is the sex that was recorded at your birth or the sex you have acquired by obtaining a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC).’

Following the UK Supreme Court ruling in For Women Scotland, this definition is no longer accurate, because a GRC does not change your legal sex for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010. We have therefore updated this definition throughout the code to be:

‘Legal sex is the sex that was recorded at your birth.’

Page updates

Published:

20 May 2025

Last updated:

20 May 2025

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