



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection**

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**Government to Engage with GPs on Gender Recognition Bill**

**Tuesday, 10 March 2015:** The Minister of State at the Department of Social Protection, Kevin Humphreys TD, today announced that following the agreement of Cabinet, the Department of Social Protection will engage with General Practitioners on the validation process contained in the Gender Recognition Bill.

The validation process for gender recognition certificates, as currently structured, requires an endocrinologist or psychiatrist to provide a supporting statement that an applicant is transitioning or has transitioned to the applicant's preferred gender. There is no requirement for the medical practitioner to carry out a specific medical evaluation such as a physical examination of an applicant for a gender recognition certificate. GPs were not previously included in the validation process for the issuing of gender recognition certificates, nor were their representative bodies consulted on how such a process might operate.

Minister Humphreys said: **“However, my Department has recently received correspondence from both the Irish College of General Practitioners and the Irish Medical Organisation outlining broad support for the inclusion of GPs in the process.**

**“Therefore, it is our intention now to engage in consultations as to how the Bill might encompass GPs. If a satisfactory conclusion is reached the intention would be to bring amendments in the Dáil in due course. To enable this process, the Committee Stage of the Bill will be delayed until later in the year.**

**“Throughout the drafting and early passage of this Bill, both I and the Tánaiste have taken on board the views of representative groups and citizens regarding the provisions contained within the Gender Recognition Bill. It remains my firm intention that this much needed civil rights legislation will be passed this year.”**

ENDS