Twitter Thread by Jo Maugham



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We at @GoodLawProject have a paralegal attending the case management hearing in the Tavistock's appeal in the Bell case on behalf of our trans defence fund. Occasional updates from them as the hearing progresses...

The 'stay' - effectively a suspension of the legal effect of the first instance decision - will continue. That has been agreed between the parties.

Judge doesn't want oral submissions from any of the would-be intervenors at the case management hearing. (I wouldn't read anything in to that.)

Tavistock supports the intervention by @stonewalluk, @BrookCharity, @TheEndoSociety and @Genderintell, is neutral on those from @libertyhq and @TheBMA and opposes those from Transgender Trend and Dr Bell and a 'parents' group'.

Counsel for Bell opposes - I hope I have that right - the joint intervention.

They support the application from Dr Bell (no relation to Keira Bell but a supporter of the Divisional Court's decision).

A slight sense of Mandy Rice Davies about these submissions (from both sides).

The NHS Trusts just want it all done quickly.

(I don't apologise to trans-interest followers for my procurement content so I'm not apologising for procurement followers for the trans content. It's a heterodox feed: what can I say?)

Sorry, long and badly timed phone call. Now catching up at the end of the hearing.

So, tl;dr. @Genderintell, @BrookCharity and @TheEndoSociety have been given permission to intervene. As have various others including UCLH and Leeds, Transgender Trend, and the aforementioned Dr Bell.

The expectation seems to be that the full hearing of the appeal will be before the end of April.

A slightly disappointing outcome, I would say. Good bits: the joint intervention was given permission; the Court appreciated the need for urgency. Bad bits: no fresh evidence and we only got permission to make submissions on paper.

(Litigation isn't a sentiment game so there is really no incentive to be anything other than completely realistic about your assessment of how a hearing goes.)

Am told everything should be "ready to go" by the end of April. So hearing may be shortly thereafter.