# Twitter Thread by FairPlayForWomen

**FairPlayForWomen**
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## THREAD: Today ONS has published a report on how it decided that the Census question "what is your sex" should *not* mean the sex you were born

The ONS considered 5 difference concepts of sex:
Sex registered at birth,
Sex recorded on birth certificate,
Sex recorded on legal/official documents,
living / presenting sex,
Self-identified sex.

/2

A big part of their evidence for why asking 'sex registered at birth' was unacceptable was that trans people won't like it and might boycott the Census. /3

**Table 7:** Evaluation of what sex concept will maximise Census responses

| Sex concept | RAG | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| Registered at birth | Red | This definition raises strong feelings among various groups.<br>Trans people would be less likely to respond to census, especially those with a GRC.<br>Testing suggests some individuals would exert pressure on others to disrupt the census by discouraging completion. |
| Recorded on birth certificate | Amber | Trans people without a GRC would be less likely to respond to census.<br>Seen as factual, reducing negative reaction across groups, including non-binary people<br>Some evidence of continuing impact on likelihood of response as obtaining a GRC is a high burden process.<br>No evidence that this would lead to re-posting of the guidance on other forums |

From this they concluded "The highest negative impact on accuracy & reliability is anticipated if sex registered at birth was collected due to the likely negative impact on response rates caused by the perceived invasion of privacy" /4

and that "The data need [for birth sex] is not considered to be strong enough to justify collecting this" /5

So what was this important and influential piece of research they did to gauge the response of the trans community and women? /6

They interviewed 52 people; cisgender, transgender and trans allies.

.... some members of women's groups /7

## Annex B: Publications and meetings relating to sex and gender identity

**Research and engagement publications** +

**Table 10:** Summary of testing used in the evaluation of the sex question concept

| Reference | Date of testing | Type of testing and sample size |
|---|---|---|
| 2020:6 | October and November 2020 | Qualitative: 52 cognitive interviews with participants who were cisgender, trans, members of Women's Groups and trans allies |

They don't go into details but we know from elsewhere:

"participants were recruited through existing databases from those who had ‘opted-in’ to take part in future research *and via a professional agency*".

Who is this professional agency that supplies trans & trans allies? /8

And are these voices representative of ordinary trans people or are they selected trans activist voices? How many were there? Perhaps a dozen of each?

So many questions unanswered. /9

But these dozen or so views was enough to convince the ONS there was a risk of boycott if they asked people what sex they were born /10

Who were the 'women's groups' they interviewed to make sure they heard the other side?

Not us.... not any of the gender critical groups in fact.... /11

Again, they don't give detail in the report but we know from elsewhere that "14 women's groups were represented, e.g.: Women's league for peace and freedom, MIND Women's forum, Swarm Association, Women's Equality Party; amongst others)" /12

Has this really been a fair and transparent assessment by an independent organisation whose purpose is to collect accurate data?

We don't think so, do you? /13