

TransActual Briefing on Pausing of PATHWAYS Trial

Key Lines

- Recruitment for the PATHWAYS trial into the use of puberty-suppressing hormones (PSH) by trans children and young people **has been paused**, following a [letter from the MHRA proposing amendments](#) to its research protocol.
- Despite having **approved the trial in 2025**, the MHRA have now suggested **expanding withdrawal criteria** and **introducing a minimum age of 14** for trial participants, while suggesting **further changes may be necessary in response to pending legal action**.
- The MHRA and HRA have been **threatened with a judicial review by Bayswater Support Group** - a controversial group of non-supportive parents of trans children - **with backing from CitizenGo** - a lobby group which campaigns against abortion and LGBTQ+ rights around the world, and is **closely tied to the Kremlin and the Spanish far-right party Vox**.
- **The Cass Review** into children and young people's gender services, which has been repeatedly endorsed by this and the previous Government, **called explicitly for a trial into the use of PSH**, with justification of a **national ban on the private prescription of PSH** for trans children and young people **premised on the need to build a greater evidence base**.
- PSH have **long been used by children experiencing early-onset puberty** and [significant international research](#) and [advisory bodies](#) already support their use by trans adolescents as a **safe, reversible means of alleviating gender dysphoria and improving psychological functioning and wellbeing**.

Suggested Interventions

- Given that this Government has championed the findings of the Cass Review, including her call for a puberty blocker trial, what is the Health Secretary's response to [Dr. Cass's assertions](#) that the MHRA's proposed amendments to the research protocol are 'bizarre' and a response to 'political pressure rather than to science?'
- In their letter to the PATHWAYS research team, the MHRA cite no new research findings or evidence to justify their proposed changes, while referencing the influence of legal threats. What steps is the Health Secretary taking to ensure that executive agencies like the MHRA are able to perform their duties without the political interference of lawfare from well-funded lobby groups?

For more information

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