

01 February 2022

Mr Keith McBride  
Clerk  
NI Assembly Health Committee

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Dear Keith,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I noted that last week, the NI Health Committee received a briefing on the Legislative Consent Motion which seeks to extend the ban on virginity testing and hymenoplasty to NI.

I thought it would be helpful to clarify the GMC's position in relation this.

You are aware that amendments to the UK Government's Health and Care Bill contain provisions to ban virginity testing and hymenoplasty in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. If the law changes, we will amend our [guidance](#) on cosmetic surgery; to include hymenoplasty as a banned procedure.

The GMC is supportive of efforts to end virginity testing, hymenoplasty and associated abuses. We participated in the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) Expert Panel on Hymenoplasty, which considered the ethical, legal and clinical implications of a ban.

We contributed information about our regulatory role; the existing safeguarding provision in medical education; and the relevant principles in our guidance for doctors, particularly those on decision making and consent.

It will be important to make sure that healthcare practitioners are aware of the proposed legal changes and implications for their practice, and we are happy to contribute to implementation work going forward.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Kennedy". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Jane Kennedy

National Head – GMC Northern Ireland

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