

Trans Safety Network
info@transafety.network

2021-05-01
The Cass Review
cass.review@nhs.net

Dear Dr Hillary Cass, and the working group of the Cass Review,

Trans Safety Network have observed that public statements about the governance and selection process for the Cass Review panel have been withdrawn from its website. What does this mean in terms of the governance policy for the review group? Is the independent review changing its policy of deliberately excluding trans expertise from the panel, or is it simply hiding its working?

Trans Safety Network express our deep concerns at the Cass Review's failures to be transparent in how it operates, and at its prior public claims that only a review board with no experience of trans healthcare is able to properly assess trans healthcare. It is a matter of critical importance that trans people have agency in assessing the processes that impact our wellbeing, not just as sources of evidence, but as the parties who will be primarily impacted by any harms or benefits of such processes.

At present, the Cass Review is, by design, a cisgender review of transgender healthcare. This is not independence, but a bias by design.

We demand urgent improvements in transparency around the review governance and insist that expert trans health experience is represented in the review body.

Nothing about us, without us,

Trans Safety Network