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If you have information that would be useful to add to this document, or you think the information below is out-of-date, or we can support you in appointments at the GIC, please get in touch with us at healthcare@transgenderni.org.uk

Disclaimer: this is not official information from the GIC, the HSC, the Belfast Trust, or any related healthcare body. It is also not medical advice or opinion. This is a list of community collected information, and as such, is **provided for informational purposes until official information becomes available.**

To our knowledge, the Brackburn Gender Identity Clinic has **started to see new patients**. This is due to their new clinician, Dr. Sarah Kennedy. She's based in Edinburgh, and she travels once a month to run a clinic at Brackburn. If you're someone who was on the waiting list, and have not checked for some time, we would recommend checking what your position on the list is now. **We do not know what the expected waiting time will be.**

This brings the number of known clinicians at the clinic to 2: Dr. Sarah Kennedy and Dr. Mary Charlton. There is another member of the team, Mary, who we believe is handling certain follow-up appointments.

Outside of Brackburn, we've also heard that Dr. Hamish Courtney is on hiatus from the endocrinology department, but we do not have more information on that at this time. We **do not expect this will affect existing HRT prescriptions**, and the GIC is taking measures to allow new prescriptions to be issued via your own GP. We'll update with new information as it becomes available.

Dr. Kennedy's approach to initial assessments appears to be different than how the GIC's process has historically been known to work.

For one, we have been given assurances that **patients will not be pushed** on historical traumas or sexual history/activity if those are things you do not wish to disclose or discuss.

The process still does involve a range of topics and discussions. The below list is **not a complete summation** of all possible topics, and not every topic will be relevant or discussed in any given assessment. However, hopefully this is a useful guide to the kinds of questions that may be asked during an initial assessment.

- name & age
- where you work/where you study/what you do day-to-day
- where you're from, where you live now, and who you live with
- your partner(s), current and in the past
- when and how you worked out or knew about your gender identity
- the current state you are at in your transition
- if you've come out, when you came out, and how it was
- what your gender means to you (*particularly for non-binary people*)
- your sexuality
- what you are looking to get from the GIC
- how your relationship is with your parents, guardians, siblings, extended family, etc.
- what your childhood was like
- what your school/college/university experience was like
- mental health (in particular, over the last year)
- what your friendship group is like, current and past
- any relevant medical history
- if you smoke, or do recreational drugs
- if you have stated you'd like the GIC to give you medical intervention, you'll be asked as to what your knowledge of the effects of those interventions are.
- fertility and child-rearing intentions

This is not a fundamental shift in the GIC in regards to how it works, or its standards of care, but initial assessments should be slightly less stressful than they have been. In addition, we understand that it is now allowed for you to bring someone along with you, be that a trusted friend/family member/partner, or another advocate, to your initial assessment.