# Concerns over gender identity recording by police and courts raised in independent report



An independent report has raised substantial concerns regarding the recording of gender identity by police and courts, particularly in relation to individuals with violent criminal histories. Published on Wednesday, the findings were led by Professor Alice Sullivan and have prompted calls for urgent government intervention to ensure safety and the integrity of legal processes.

The report highlights a troubling trend where law enforcement agencies record offenders based on their self-declared gender identity rather than their biological sex. Professor Sullivan noted that many police forces categorise crimes committed by male suspects as those perpetrated by females at the request of the individuals involved, stating, “Many police forces record crimes by male suspects as though they were committed by women... This poses significant risks."

Additionally, the operational difficulties this creates within the justice system are significant. The report warns that the mixing of gender identity and biological sex could lead to misrepresentation in criminal records. Professor Sullivan elaborated, speaking to the Telegraph, “The conflation of sex and gender has caused significant issues. There seems to be a legal fiction that public bodies cannot collect data on sex. This report should show them that they can collect data on sex.”

The implications of these findings are particularly troubling for law enforcement, as individuals who have obtained a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) may be inaccurately recorded in police databases. This could result in offenders being released without a proper review of their criminal history. The report articulates this risk clearly, stating, “It is quite possible that an arrested person who has acquired a GRC without informing the police could be released or dealt with before any link to their previous offending history is known.”

The report also draws attention to recent cases wherein the self-identification of gender within the justice system has raised alarm. Notably, the situation surrounding Isla Bryson, a biological male who was convicted of two rapes while living as a man, illustrates these concerns. Bryson was initially housed in a female prison despite her criminal past, leading to public outcry. In response to the backlash, she was later relocated to a male prison.

Critics of the current policy argue that these practices undermine safety measures designed to protect women, particularly when it comes to the housing of violent male offenders in female facilities. The ongoing debate highlights significant divisions in societal views regarding transgender rights and the implications for public safety. The report serves as a pivotal point of reference for discussions addressing the balance between gender identity recognition and legal accountability within the justice system.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/sex-data-gender-identity-nhs-police-review-b2718090.html> - This article discusses a review by Professor Alice Sullivan highlighting issues with recording biological sex in public sectors, including policing, which can lead to misrepresentation in criminal records and safety risks.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-data-statistics-and-research-on-sex-and-gender> - This government publication outlines Professor Sullivan's review, focusing on data collection challenges related to sex and gender identity across public bodies, including law enforcement.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-data-statistics-and-research-on-sex-and-gender/review-of-data-statistics-and-research-on-sex-and-gender-executive-summary> - The executive summary of the review provides details on the approach and findings regarding data collection on sex and gender identity, emphasizing the need for accurate data in legal and health systems.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64311161> - This article discusses the case of Isla Bryson, a biological male who was initially housed in a female prison, highlighting concerns about gender identity policies in the justice system.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jan/31/transgender-prisoners-uk-women-safety-concerns> - This article explores the debate surrounding transgender prisoners and safety concerns in female prisons, reflecting broader societal divisions on gender identity and public safety.