

Dear Editor

Gender Identity problems have little valid place in medical practice

Your recent piece *Cass was a skirmish, now prepare for a war* (13.4.24) is accurate and prescient in portraying the cultural and political impasse in some parts of our NHS: of evidence *v* ideology. There is an inevitability to this because the most reliable, effective and uncontentious medical practice is limited to that based on readily observable, thus objective science: we need have little similar debate about appendicectomies or hip replacements. This is rarely discussed.

The further we depart from organic territory, the more capricious and dangerous medical practice is likely to become. So what kind of science can possibly engage meaningfully and effectively with our chimeric, shifting and encoded sexual fantasies and appetites? And if we cannot muster solid science to deal with our human phantoms, what then?

Such are the predicaments of modern medical services increasingly charged with the responsibility for problems that are not clearly manifest or determined in physical pathology. Recognising this inconvenient truth certainly will not resolve it, but we may save ourselves much expensive division and rancour.