

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

May 3, 2018

**Kathi Neda**  
**via the FOI website**

Dear Kathi Neda,

regarding your Freedom of Information request titled “shemale” we collected the following information:

Shemale (also known as she-male) is a term primarily used in sex work to describe a transgender woman with male genitalia and female secondary sex characteristics, usually including breasts from breast augmentation or use of hormones. Many transgender people regard the term shemale as offensive, arguing that it mocks or shows a lack of respect towards transgender individuals; in this view, the term emphasizes the natal sex of a person and neglects their gender identity. Using the term shemale for a transsexual woman often implies that she is working in the sex trade. The phrase is commonly used in pornography. The term shemale has been used since the mid-19th century, when it was a humorous colloquialism for female, especially an aggressive woman.

Sincerely,

John Smith  
**FOI Manager**