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DOZENS OF UNDER-5S REFERRED TO NHS GENDER SERVICE

More than 70 three and four-year-old children sent to controversial clinic as officials consider introducing a minimum age for referrals

By **Martin Beckford**
Policy Editor

MORE than 70 children aged three and four have been sent to the controversial NHS transgender clinic, it can be revealed.

The pre-schoolers were among 382 youngsters aged six and under referred to the Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS) over the past decade, official figures show.

Campaigners say they never should have been put forward by doctors or parents for psychological assessment at such a young age.

Health Service bosses are now considering introducing a minimum age of seven for future patients on the grounds that younger children are unable to communicate meaningfully with medics about wanting to identify as the opposite sex.

A new consultation by NHS England also acknowledges that little boys showing an interest in girls' clothes or toys, or vice versa, is 'reasonably common' and 'usually not indicative of gender incongruence'.

It comes ahead of a long-awaited final report by consultant paediatrician Dr Hilary Cass, which is expected to make further far-reaching recommendations about transgender



EXCLUSIVE

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