



Ministry  
of Justice

# **Gender Recognition Certificate Statistics January to March 2013**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

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## Executive summary

The number of applications for gender recognition received in January to March 2013 was 72, slightly below average.

During the same period, 56 applications were dealt with, also below average. A full Gender Recognition Certificate was issued in 80 per cent of cases. In line with the usual trend, two thirds of which were to individuals who were registered male at birth.

At the end of March 2013, there were about a quarter more applications pending than average.

# Introduction

This bulletin presents summary statistics on Gender Recognition Certificates applied for and granted by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service's Gender Recognition Panel during the quarter **January to March 2013**, along with quarterly data since April 2009.

Under United Kingdom law, individuals are considered by the State to be of the gender – either male or female – that is recorded on their birth certificate. The Gender Recognition Act 2004, which came into effect on 4 April 2005, enables transsexual people to apply to the Gender Recognition Panel (GRP) to receive a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC).

Successful applicants are considered legally to be of their acquired gender. Such individuals are entitled to all the rights appropriate to a person of their acquired gender, including the right to marry someone of the opposite legal gender, form a civil partnership with someone of the same legal gender, and to retire and receive state pension at an age appropriate to their acquired gender. A person whose birth was registered in the UK is able to obtain a new birth certificate showing their recognised legal gender.

There are two application processes for obtaining a GRC:

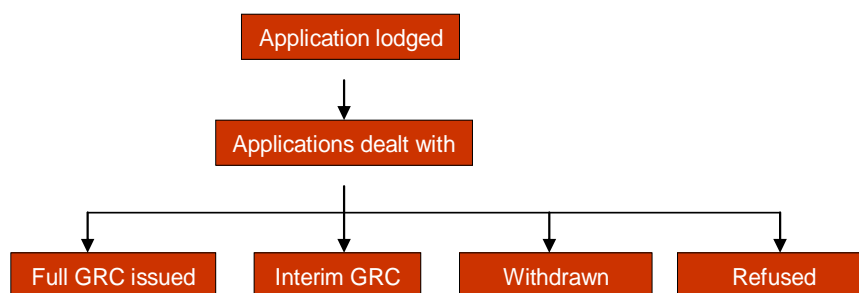
1. **Standard track** applications are those submitted under the standard application process, on the basis of living permanently in the acquired gender.
2. **Overseas track** applications are those submitted under the overseas application process, on the basis of having changed gender under the law of an approved country or territory outside the United Kingdom.

The GRP was established under the Gender Recognition Act 2004. Its function is to assess applications from transsexual people seeking to obtain a Gender Recognition Certificate. Information on the criteria for gender recognition against which the GRP assesses applications can be found in the Explanatory Notes section at the end of this report.

The GRP is comprised of judicially trained legal and medical members. The panel sit in private and consider the documentary evidence supplied by the applicant in support of their application. If a person is successful in their application to the GRP, they will be issued with a full Gender Recognition Certificate, and that person's gender will become, for all purposes, their acquired gender.

Figure 1 shows the stages of the Gender Recognition Certificate process. Note that the figures in the accompanying tables relate to the workload in 2012/13 so the figures for receipts will not sum to the same total as the number of disposals.

**Figure 1: The Gender Recognition Certificate process**



More information about the gender recognition process and the work of the GRP can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at

[www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/gender-recognition-panel](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/gender-recognition-panel)

Quarterly figures on the workload of all the tribunals run by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service are published in the Official Statistics bulletin entitled Quarterly Tribunals Statistics, which is available from the Ministry of Justice website at

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/tribunals-statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/tribunals-statistics)

If you have any feedback, questions or requests for further information about this statistical bulletin, please direct them to the appropriate contact given at the end of this report.

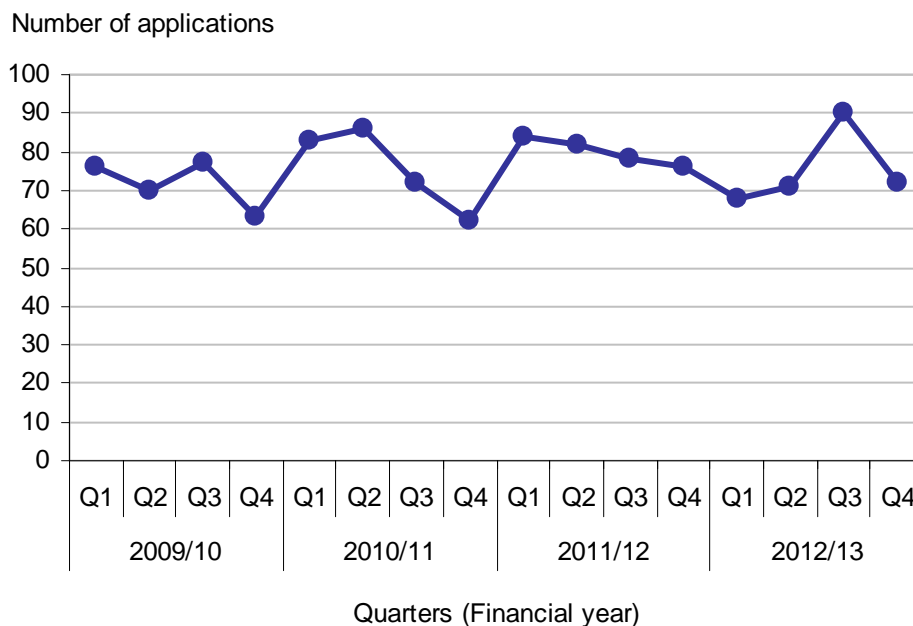
## Commentary

### Applications received (Tables 1 and 2)

A total of 72 applications were received by the Gender Recognition Panel (GRP) in the quarter January to March 2013. Overall, the number of applications has followed a broadly flat trend over the past three years (see Figure 2).

Of the 72 applications in the quarter, 69 were 'standard track' applications, whilst a further 3 were 'overseas track' applications.

**Figure 2: Applications received by the Gender Recognition Panel, 2009/10 Q1 to 2012/13 Q4**



At the end of the quarter, a total of 113 applications were in progress awaiting final resolution. This was an increase of 16% from the previous quarter.

### Initial outcome of applications (Table 1)

A total of 56 applications were dealt with by the GRP during the period January to March 2013, meaning that either a decision had been taken by the GRP to grant or to refuse a Gender Recognition Certificate, or the applicant withdrew their application.

A full Gender Recognition Certificate was granted in 45 cases (80 per cent of the total), meaning that the person was judged by the GRP to have satisfied the criteria for legal recognition in their acquired gender.

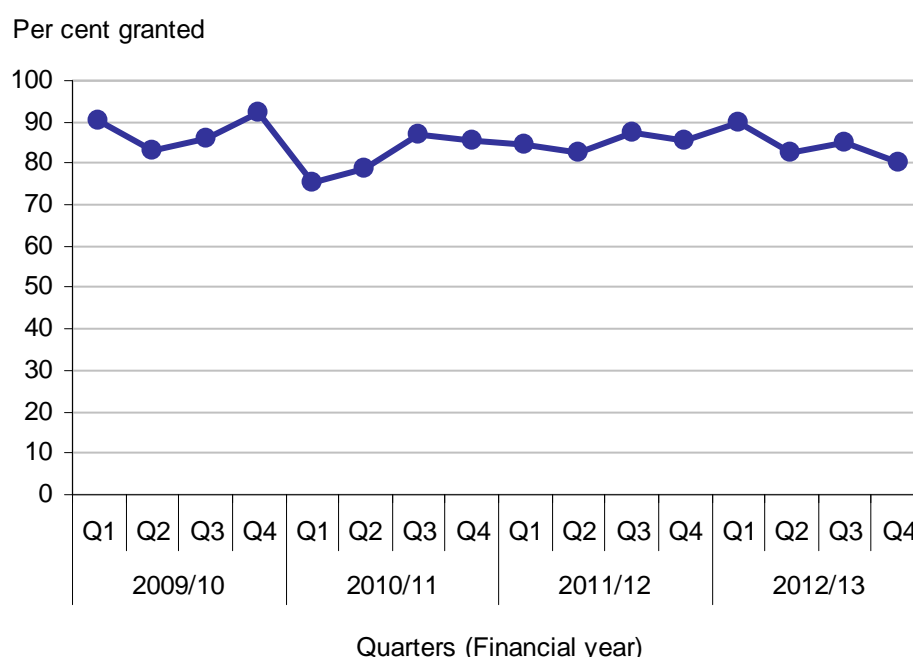
There were four cases where an interim Gender Recognition Certificate was granted, which meant that the application was successful but the applicant was married or in a civil partnership at the time. In such instances, a full Gender Recognition Certificate will be issued when the marriage or civil

partnership has ended. Full certificates which are issued subsequent to an earlier interim certificate are not included within the statistics for full Gender Recognition Certificates, which relate only to those issued by the GRP in the first instance.

A further 3 applications were refused during January to March 2013, while 4 applications were withdrawn.

Table 2 shows the outcome of ‘standard track’ and ‘overseas track’ applications.

**Figure 3: Proportion of applications dealt with where a full Gender Recognition Certificate was granted, 2009/10 Q1 to 2012/13 Q4**

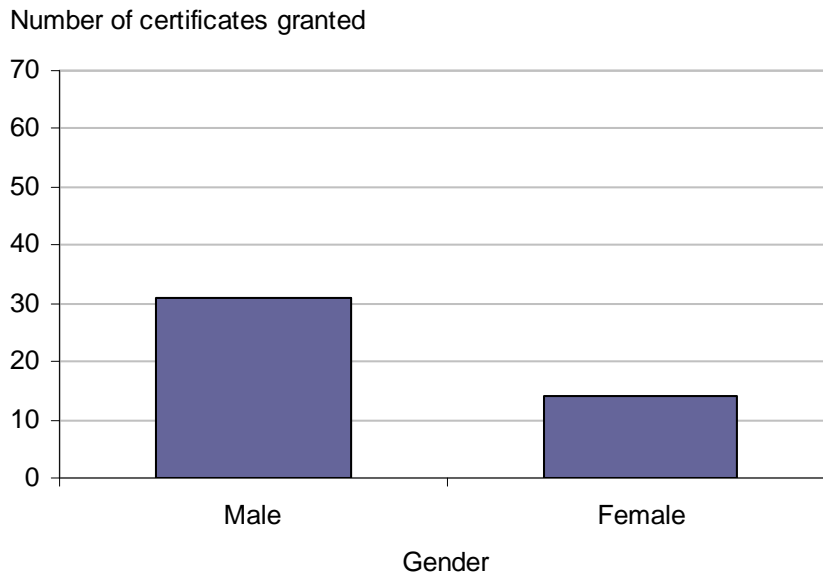


**Gender Recognition Certificates granted – demographic statistics (Table 4)**

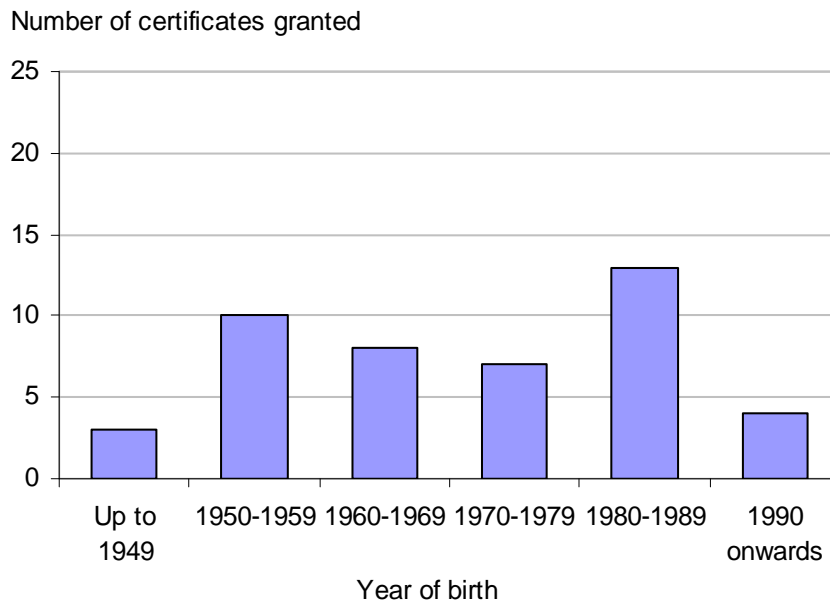
Forty five full Gender Recognition Certificates were granted during the period January to March 2013. Of these, 31 certificates were granted to individuals who were registered male at birth (who thus legally became female as a result), while 14 were granted to individuals who were registered female at birth (see Figure 4).

Full Gender Recognition Certificates were granted to applicants of a range of ages. Certificates granted included 21 to applicants born in years prior to 1970; 7 to applicants born in 1970-1979; 13 to applicants born in 1980-1989 and 4 to applicants born in 1990 or later (see Figure 5).

**Figure 4: Full Gender Recognition Certificates granted during Q4 2012/13, by gender**



**Figure 5: Full Gender Recognition Certificates granted during Q4 2012/13, by year of birth**



## Explanatory notes

The statistics in this bulletin relate to applications to, and decisions made by, the Gender Recognition Panel (GRP) in the quarter January to March 2013. They are published by the Ministry of Justice, with assistance from officials at the GRP.

An application for a Gender Recognition Certificate requires applicants to demonstrate that:

- They have, or have had, gender dysphoria.
- They have lived fully for the last two years in their acquired gender.
- They intend to live permanently in their acquired gender.

The overseas process requires applicants to demonstrate that they have been legally recognised in their acquired gender in a country or territory that is listed in the Gender Recognition (Approved Countries and Territories) Order 2005. The list is available on the Ministry of Justice website ([www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/gender-recognition-panel/overseas-application-process](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/gender-recognition-panel/overseas-application-process)). Under all circumstances, an applicant must also prove that they are at least 18 years of age at date of application.

A full Gender Recognition Certificate issued by the GRP shows that a person has satisfied the criteria for legal recognition in the acquired gender. It is issued to a successful applicant if he or she is not married or in a civil partnership. From the date of issue, the holder's gender becomes the acquired gender for all purposes.

An interim Gender Recognition Certificate is issued to a successful applicant if he or she is married or in a civil partnership at the time of the application. The interim certificate is issued to allow the applicant and his or her spouse or civil partner to end their marriage or civil partnership easily. It has no legal significance beyond this use. When the marriage or civil partnership is ended, a full Gender Recognition Certificate will be issued to the successful applicant. Please note, however, that the statistics for full certificates issued presented in this bulletin do not count those issued subsequent to an earlier interim certificate; the statistics relate only to those full certificates which are issued in the *first* instance.

The Gender Recognition Panel is part of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, which is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice, and provides administrative support for the tribunals' judiciary who hear cases and decide appeals. More information about the work of HM Courts and Tribunals Service can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at [www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmcts](http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmcts).



## Contacts

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