

I am contacting you to request some insight into any protocols that West Midlands Police has in place for staff handling cases involving transgender victims or perpetrators, particularly when sexual offences are suspected. For example, are there any set procedures in terms of gender related issues such as full body searches and how are staff trained to approach the use of correct pronouns, as well as whether there is an option to tick 'transgender' on person records? If possible, could I request access to any policy documents that would be relevant to this topic?

**There is only the option to choose Male or Female in relation to a persons records.**

**The Code of Ethics does cover how we should treat transgender people which is aligned to THRIVE. Please see:**

**<https://foi.west-midlands.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/THRIVE.pdf>**

**A person should be treated as the gender that they present, and therefore the officers who search the person should be of that same gender.**

**If clarification needs seeking then officers should ask the subject, although this information that the person is transgender should be classed as data protection sensitive and should only be released for the prevention of crime against the subject and if relevant, legal, proportionate and fair.**

**The subject may have various forms of new identification to prove that they are transgender, these may be drivers licence, bank cards, Gender Recognition Certificate etc.**

**If a search is in progress and part way through it is found that the subject is transgender then the search should continue unless the subject requests a different gender of searching officer.**

**Conducted only to the EXTENT necessary to discover what is being sought. The intrusion upon the liberty of any person must be brief**

**In relation to Stop and Search there is no specific policy for WMP that addresses this other than what is stated in PACE.**