

Kaolin Maia Cash
117 Moor Lane
Newby
Scarborough
YO12 5SW

email: kaolin@maia.cash
mobile: 075411072791

Date: 21/04/15

An Addendum:

There are a number of issues in Dr Saju's discharge summary, and I feel that my thoughts on the matter should be maintained alongside his report as a record of these.

First of all, there is a problem with the statement "There are no clear definitive indications of cross gender interests or identity in Kaolin's childhood or teenage years". The problem is, it is untrue. The examples Dr Saju uses in my childhood experiences are significant, but he has neglected to mention the things I had shared with other members of the team who handled my case; for example, cross-dressing in private as a teenager, from my early to late teens, is a very important fact that Saju has failed to report: whether due to an oversight on his part, or that of a member of the irregular team assembled to handle my case, I do not know.

Furthermore, I had attempted to broach the subject with my mother when I was very young but had been made to feel foolish for feeling the way I did. This had a profound impact on my development: I felt I could not talk to my mother about my feelings, the one person I should have been able to turn to, and that these feelings were "wrong" and "dirty", and that there was something wrong with me - a phrase she has used many times throughout my life. I spent most of my childhood wistfully imagining how happy I would be to just switch places with a girl in my classroom, whose name I shared, and just live my life as if I'd always been her - another fact Dr Saju has failed to report. Dr Saju has entirely overlooked the clear repression of significant factors in favour of a "simpler" and "safer" answer - that of a recently developed anxiety disorder.

Second, there is a systematic misreporting of the cause of my anxiety disorder. I repeatedly attempted to clarify that it was not cannabis that caused my disorder; a friend gave me some other drug to try (I am not sure what it was, he said it was one thing at the time then informed me it was some variety of synthetic drug - one of these new ones that get around, many of which do not have names attributed to them) and it was this substance that caused my panic attacks. If nothing else, this just goes to show the unreliability of the discharge report provided by the Leeds Gender Identity Service, but ultimately this entire element has no bearing on my gender identity or case as a whole, no matter how much Dr Saju would like it to. The same goes for his mention of possible autism; whether I am or am not autistic does not affect my life or my gender identity so this should not be considered a factor.

Third, Dr Saju says "She felt the life she led so far has been one of ignorance. She thought she has been living life as on autopilot" - I fear he may have misinterpreted this as something more than the metaphor it was intended to be. This is not the only instance of possible lexical disparity between the doctor and me, so I am unsurprised that its significance has been overstated in the report. I was saying to him that, due to my mother making me feel foolish, I had been living my life the way other people had been telling me to live it.

I had been blindly accepting my family's and my peers' definition of me, and

denying myself the chance to reflect on my presentation. Moreover, I simply did not have the required information in order to understand that being transgender was even a thing, outside one instance of a soap opera at a very young age. Indeed, the statement "She began to see the feminine aspects of herself which she was not aware of before", is also fallacious. I was aware of these aspects, I just had no way of determining how they fit in to the larger picture because there's no inherent "Gender Manual" that children are given, and I was unable to make sense of these feelings at the time. It was scary and so I lived in denial, not ignorance - this is a key difference, and a fundamental one that has been misrepresented in Dr Saju's report.

The "bad trip" that triggered my anxiety, and the subsequent re-evaluation of my place in life, are entirely unrelated to my gender identity development process. This process was brought on by the absorption of knowledge of gender in culture and society, having been following the blogs of many transgender people online for years - a fact I also brought up in our sessions, but has once again gone unreported.

Next, he has clearly misrepresented my relationship with my Grandmother. "Her grandmother ... calls Kaolin by her male name and pronouns". This is simply untrue, and not what I said at all. I had told the clinic on multiple occasions that I had been worried that my Grandmother, as a Jehovah's Witness and avid reader of the Daily Mail, would react negatively to my coming out and so had my father speak to her on my behalf. She then contacted me and told me that she would love me no matter what, and support me in anything. She told me to correct her if she ever accidentally misgendered or misnamed me, which is more than I can say for my mother and sister who consistently call me by a name that is not mine when speaking about me to one another in private (something I have overheard on the phone while they spoke in the background, on multiple occasions).

Outside this initial "bad trip", there has been no aspect of depersonalisation. While there was an element of "not being in my body" during the trip, I returned relatively to normal afterward until I began to decompress the experience and it caused me to have existential crises. I had been exploring my gender identity before this event, as I had mentioned during our sessions, but it was this event that triggered a more motivated examination of my place in life. This is an important element of my case that Saju has entirely failed to understand, due in part to the poor method of assessment in my particular case; the service usually has one member of staff assess the outpatient for three sessions before sitting in with the resident psychiatrist who will give one final assessment where the patient may or may not receive diagnosis. In my case, however, I had many members of staff due to the dreadful state of our NHS and lack of staffing, and thus the clinic has played a game of Chinese Whispers with any and all note-taking throughout the process; even the simple matter of my name - they had it misspelled for two months even after I provided them with a copy of my deed poll and told them to rectify the error, and watched them write down in their notes to do so.

I believe the unorthodox manner in which my case was handled contributed to the following issues, as contrary to their usual operational process I was forced to meet with multiple independent members of staff before my meetings with Dr Saju, and I believe this lack of consistency has contributed to a systematic misunderstanding of my case, and thus contributed to an unreliable assessment by Dr Saju. The clinic's position of erring on the side of caution clearly does not apply to their manner of practice when assessing me, and I believe a grievous error in judgment has been made on Dr Saju's part - a fact I stated to him at the time. Unfortunately, his opinion - however flawed and rooted in misinformation it may be - carries more weight than mine (the person whom this ultimately affects for the rest of her life).

Finally, Dr Saju's final words, "her complex presentation". I believe that but for my mention of anxiety disorder I would not be deemed complex at all. Given the facts of my lifelong gender dysphoria and intent to be a woman from such a

young age, coupled with the coming to terms with my identity later in life when receiving more actual information on the subject, I would not hesitate to suggest that my case is anything BUT complex if the matter of my anxiety disorder were ignored - as well it should be, an opinion I am hopeful my GP would share, due to the fact that it has absolutely no bearing on my gender identity or wish to present as the woman I most certainly am.

To say "Kaolin was understandably unhappy" is an understatement; I am deeply offended by the incredibly poor standard of care this clinic has provided.

Yours sincerely,

Kaolin Maia Cash