

UK ban on puberty blockers upheld by High Court

The emergency restrictions came into effect in June.

A High Court judge has found that a UK emergency ban on the sale or supply of puberty blockers is lawful.

The restrictions **came into effect** on June 3 and apply to young people under 18 with gender dysphoria in England, Wales and Scotland.

Justice Beverley Lang said in a ruling made public on Monday that a review commissioned by the National Health Service (NHS) about the “very substantial risks and very narrow benefits associated with the use of puberty blockers” had provided “powerful scientific evidence” in support of the restrictions.

The group TransActual and a youth who cannot be named under a court order sought to challenge the decision of former health secretary Victoria Atkins to ban prescribing hormones that can delay the development of puberty.

They are sometimes prescribed to help children with gender dysphoria by giving them more time to consider options that could include gender reassignment.

The ban restricts the NHS from providing the medication outside of clinical trials and prevents it from being prescribed by private suppliers.

The NHS stopped prescribing puberty blockers last year, saying there was not enough evidence about the benefits and harms.

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