

Gender Identity Services in the UK

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26-28 APRIL 2023

KILLARNEY, IRELAND

Disclosures

I have no disclosures



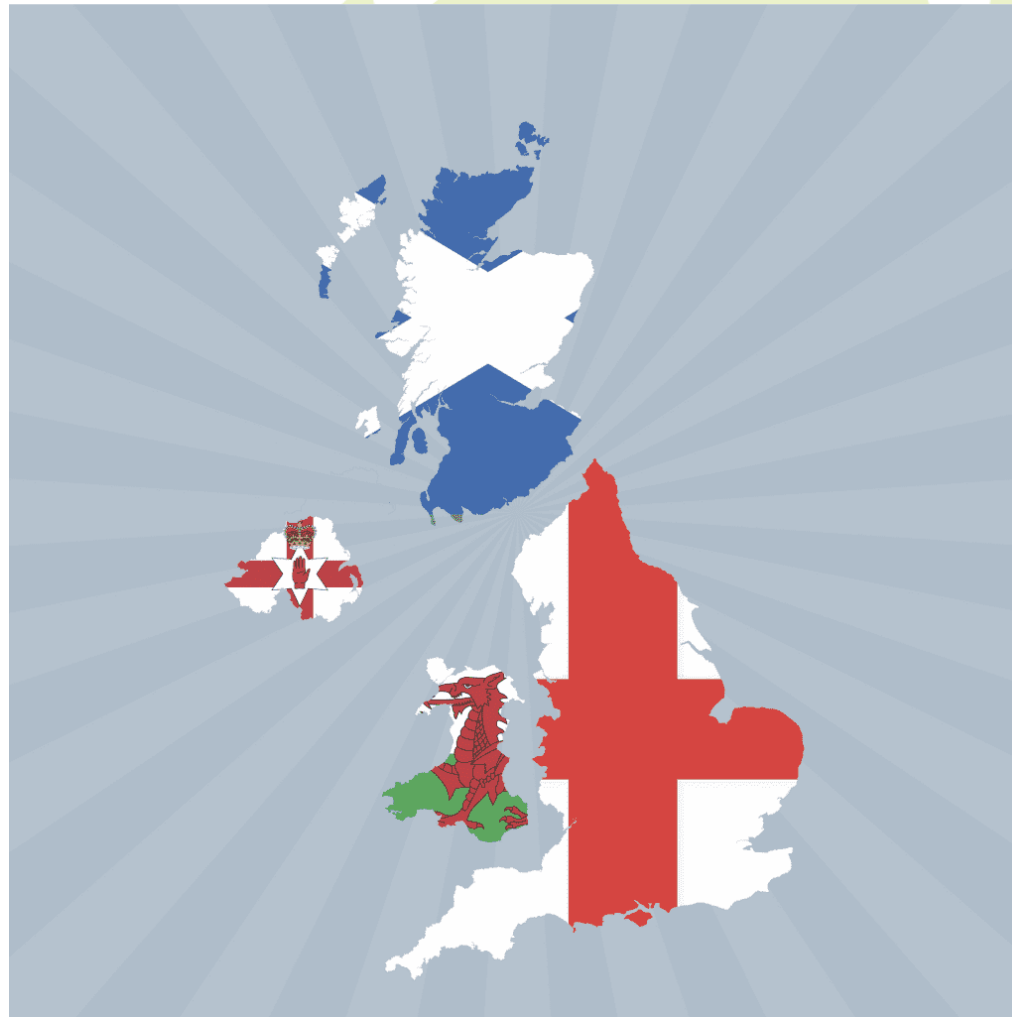
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The United Kingdom..... is made up of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Dis-United Kingdom for Healthcare



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BAGIS

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF GENDER IDENTITY SPECIALISTS

British Association of Gender Identity
Specialists

BAGIS Meetings and Events

BAGIS 8th Symposium

Cardiff 5th & 6th October 2023

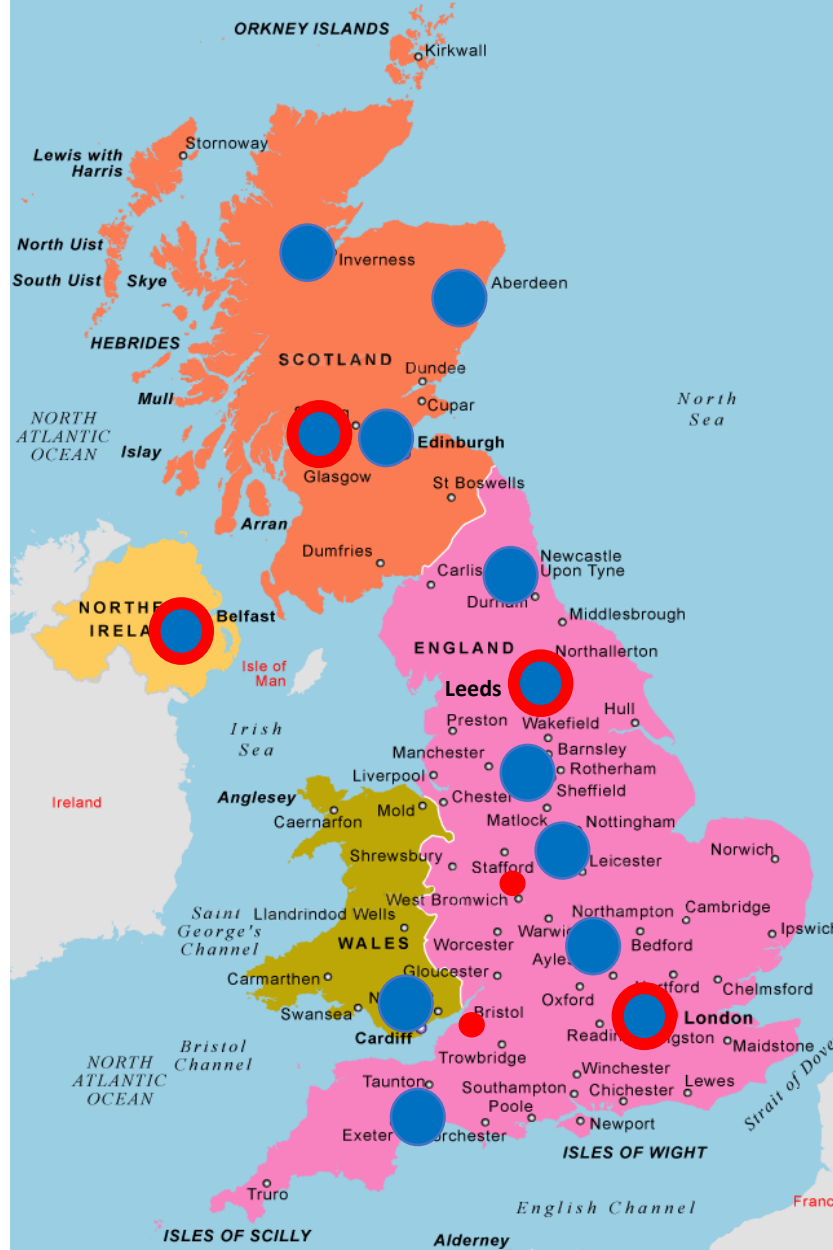
Lifespan Care

President Update: Matthew Mills



UK Gender Identity Clinics

Blue = adult GIC
Red = YP GIDS



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Northern Ireland

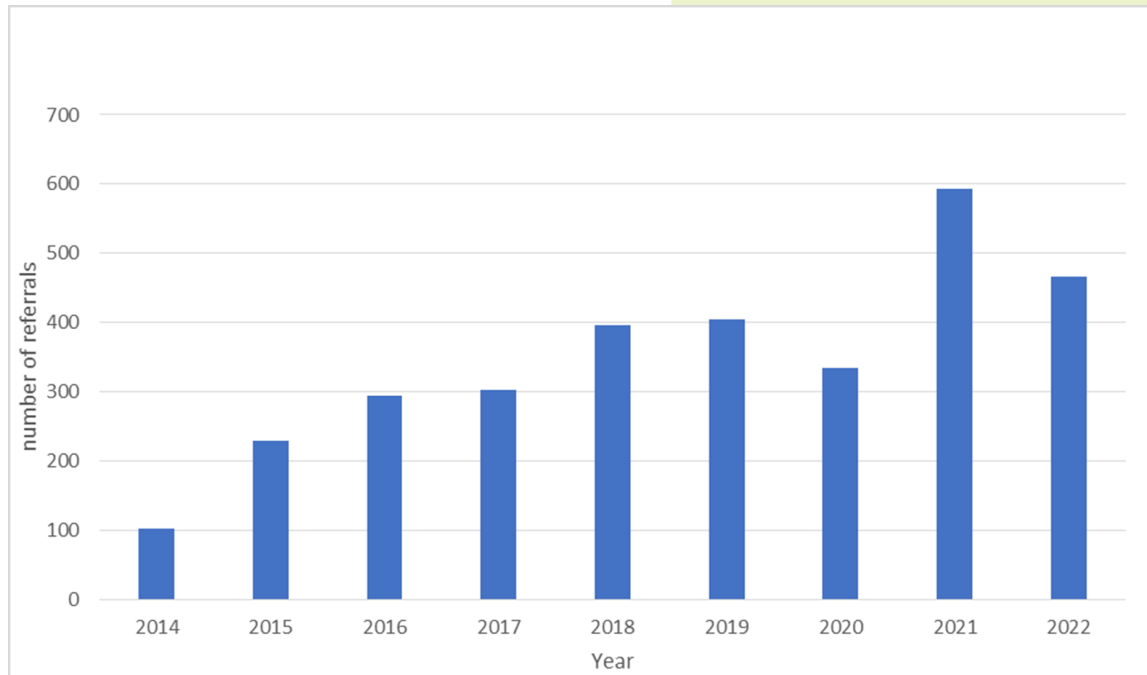
- Child/adolescent psychosocial service (KOI –Knowing Our Identity)
- Not seeing new referrals since March 2020
- Adolescent Endocrinology in Belfast Hospital for Sick Children
- No fully established adult GIC yet
- Ongoing care for established adults by locum practitioners at Royal Victoria Hospital

Scottish Gender Service

- Adult clinics in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness
- Only service in Scotland for YP since 2013
@ Sandyford (Sexual Health Service) Glasgow
- Total of 1.4 WTE clinical staff:
- Psychologists & Psychiatry Specialty Doctor
Difficulty filling posts



Referrals to Scottish YP Gender Service



- Accept referrals from multiple agencies, including self referrals
- Under 10s – one-off appointment plus local services and support
- Waiting list of 1051
- 3 years 11 months wait for first appointment

* 2022 data representing January-October inclusive.

Main Differences from England

- Cass review does not cover Scotland
- Regional model not applies in Scotland because of smaller population
- 2 mental health clinician assessments are required for progression to GAH
- YP do not need to be on a puberty blocker to progress to GAH from age 16
- Support from the *National Gender Identity Clinical Network for Scotland*, e.g. development of national clinical guidelines on assessment, endocrine treatment, fertility preservation, etc. (www.ngicns.scot.nhs.uk)

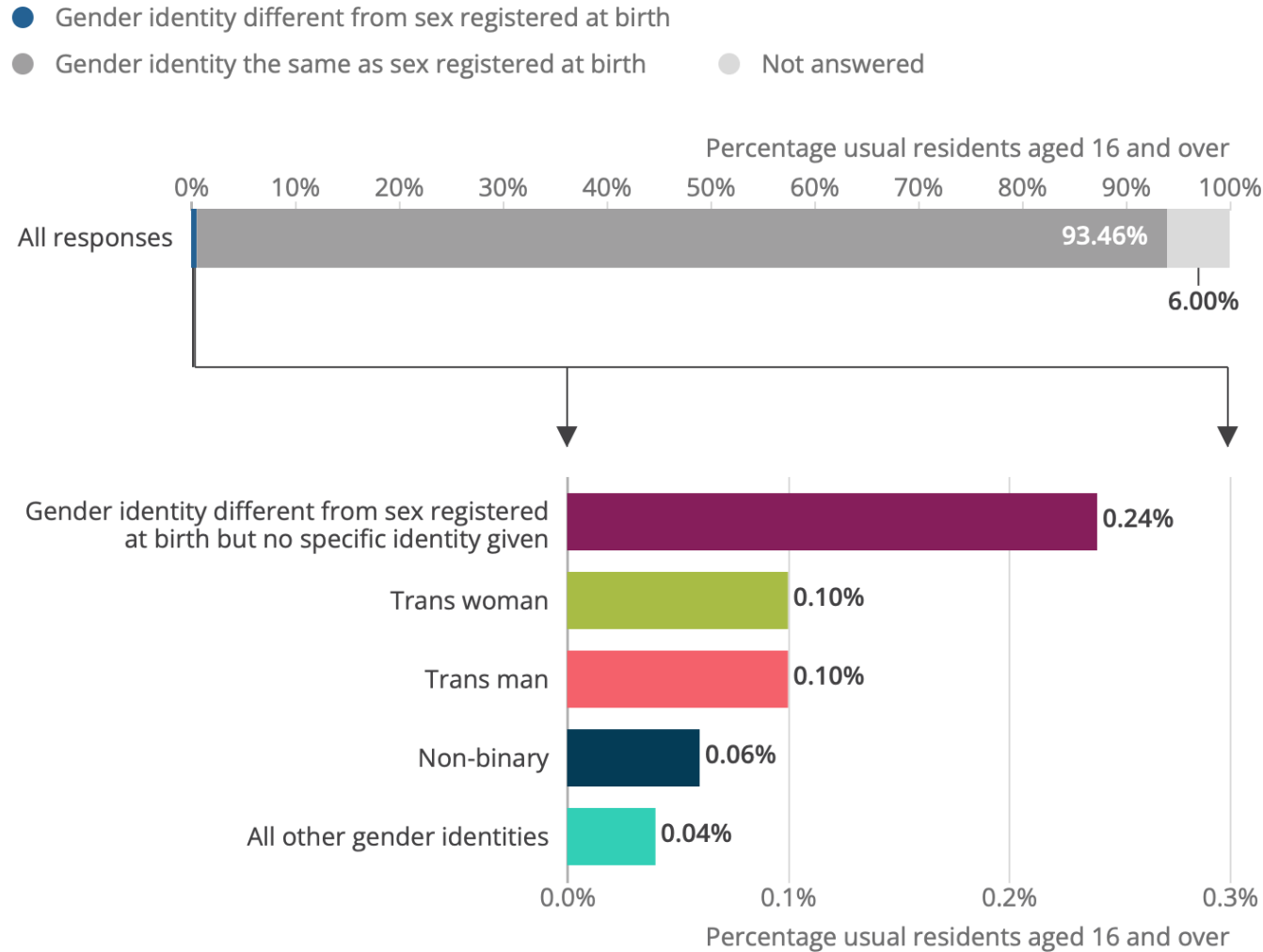
Wales

- Main base in south (Cardiff), satellite in north (Holywell)
- Work directly with primary care practitioners: Welsh government
- 7 Health Boards each with gender team including primary care (GP) prescriber and speech therapist
- Responsible for coordinating care and hormone management
- Welsh govt Action Plan for improvement of life quality for LGBTQ+
- Inclusive education programme at all levels especially in medical and nursing training

England

- 7 adult Gender Identity Clinics covering most regions (not E or NW)
- Funded by NHS England
- Waiting lists long
- Pilot local primary care services trialled in Manchester, Liverpool, Brighton, London and Cambridge
- Transition care pathway from GIDS agreed through NHS England
- Surgery demand high: top surgery better distribution, easier access
- New bottom surgical centres in south of England. Waiting time 12m vaginoplasty

Figure 1: Gender identity, 2021, England and Wales



2021 census
England and Wales
(45.7 million >16yr)

0.5% adults identify as
transgender

Source: Office for National Statistics – Census 2021

Professional Certificates for Gender Identity Healthcare Professionals

RCP has been commissioned by NHS England to develop a range of professional certificates (credentials) for clinicians working in adult gender identity healthcare services.

Three professional certificates to meet Gender Identity Clinics (GIC) workforce credentialing needs

Three RCP professional certificate awards are available, to meet the credentialing requirements for statutorily regulated healthcare professionals (HCPs) working with gender diverse adults in GICs, and potentially in other adult service settings, such as primary care:

- Professional Certificate in Core Capabilities in Clinical Practice for Adult Gender Identity Healthcare (Certificate 1)
- Professional Certificate in Advanced Capabilities in Clinical Practice for Adult Gender Identity Healthcare (Certificate 2)
- Professional Certificate in Prescribing Capabilities in Clinical Practice for Adult Gender Identity Healthcare (Certificate 3).

Postgraduate courses

Telephone: [+44 \(0\)20 3075 1562](tel:+44(0)2030751562)

Email: postgraduate@rcplondon.ac.uk

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<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/educa>



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- London and Leeds main bases
- Tavistock Centre “The Tavi”
- NHS England Specialist Commission 2009
- Bristol-Wales 2018
- Birmingham 2019
- Outreach visits: Wales, West of England, Belfast (Northern Ireland)
- Dublin (Republic of Ireland) & Glasgow (Scotland) locally funded

Legal challenges in England

English High Court judgement: December 2020

(Bell v Tavistock)

-No child under 16yr has competence to consent
-16 to17yr have capacity but cannot have treatment without application to the Court

English Family Court: June 2021

(AB v CD)

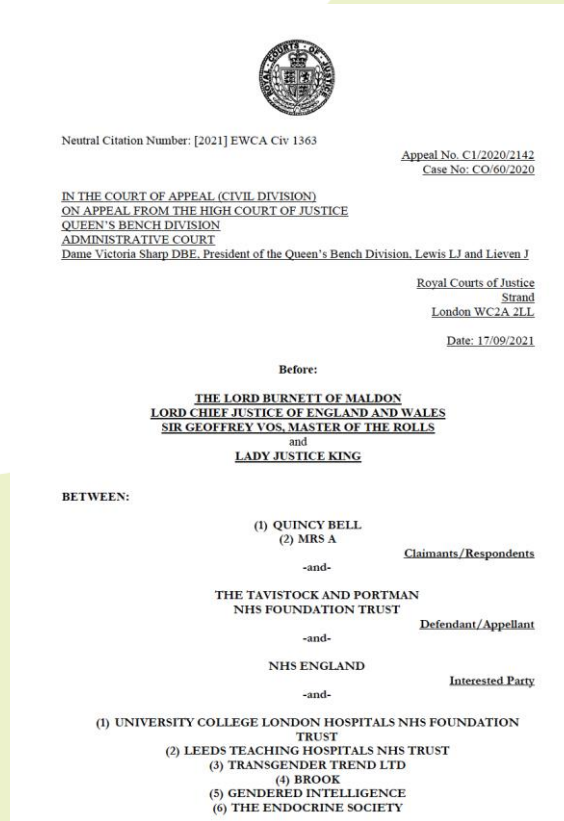
Parents can consent on behalf of their children

English High Court of Appeal: September 2021

Multi agency appeal against *Bell v Tavistock*

Original judgement overturned

Consent to be taken by doctors



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GIDS pathway for endocrine referral of YP

- Independent NHS England appointed **Multi-Professional Review Group** (MPRG) oversees correctness of referral procedures <16 yr
- Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting with GIDS clinician and endocrine team (GEM) to agree appropriateness of referral for puberty blocker
- Personal or group introductory educational session and clinical assessment including pubertal staging if needed. Fertility discussed
- Further meeting 2 months later to rediscuss fertility and evaluate competence or capacity to consent: if so consent taken and documented
- Process repeated after minimum 1yr and >16yr for GAH

The Cass Review

The Cass
Review

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Independent review of gender identity services for children and young people

“It is absolutely right that children and young people, who may be dealing with a complex range of issues around their gender identity, get the best possible support and expertise throughout their care.”

— Dr Hilary Cass



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A fundamentally different service model is needed which is more in line with other paediatric provision, to provide timely and appropriate care for children and young people needing support around their gender identity. This must include support for any other clinical presentations that they may have.

It is essential that these children and young people can access the same level of psychological and social support as any other child or young person in distress, from their first encounter with the NHS and at every level within the service.

Contribute to the Review



“There’s going to be a lot of listening – listening to those who have experience either as a young person, a family member, or a professional in the field”.

— Dr Hilary Cass

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JULY 2022

**NHS ENGLAND STATED GIDS
TO BE CLOSED DOWN
WITHIN 6 MONTHS**

**ALL SERVICES AND WAITING
LIST MANAGEMENT TO BE
TRANSFERRED TO NEW
PROVIDERS**



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New NHS England plan for YP services

- “Northern Hub”
 - Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital
 - Alder Hey Children’s Hospital Liverpool
- “Southern Hub”
 - Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital, London
 - Evelina Children’s Hospital, London
 - Maudsley Psychiatric Hospital, London
- **None has any experience of management of gender incongruence in YP!**
- Waiting list (>8000) to be transferred to another organisation
- UCLH and Leeds endo teams reinstated!
- **Fate of GIDS:**
 - Awaiting 6 month notice for closure from NHS England
 - **What happens to the staff?**



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Access to medical intervention through a research programme only



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Research Programme



For people to feel confident in the conclusions and recommendations the Review makes, it needs to be evidence-based and incorporate the lived experiences of children and young people, their families, and the professionals working to support them.

The research streams have been planned to achieve that end and should provide the Review with the best available collation of published evidence, and qualitative and quantitative research.



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Health Education England

- Establish a National Education Programme
- Determine levels of knowledge required for each professional group
- Training packages and professional qualifications to be run through the *Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health*
- Hope to start 2024
- Co-education leads appointed



The screenshot shows a BBC News article. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, News, Sport, Weather, and iPlayer. Below that is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. Underneath the banner are more navigation links: Home, Cost of Living, War in Ukraine, Climate, UK, World, Business, Politics, Culture, and Tech. A sub-navigation bar lists UK, England, N. Ireland, Scotland, Alba, Wales, Cymru, Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, and Local News. The main headline of the article is 'Child gender clinic reform 'under threat', says Sajid Javid'. Below the headline is a timestamp '23 hours ago' and a small red icon with a white arrow. The article features a portrait of Sajid Javid, a man with a shaved head wearing a dark suit and tie. Below the photo is the credit 'GETTY IMAGES' and a quote: 'Former health secretary Sajid Javid said the existing gender clinic, due to be replaced, has "significant failings"'. The author is identified as 'By Hannah Barnes' from 'BBC Newsnight'. The article text states: 'A former health secretary has warned reform of England and Wales' youth gender service is "under threat" over concerns that staff involved in past failings will still have key roles. BBC Newsnight has learned a clinician from the existing gender clinic, due to be closed this year, has been given a training job in the new service. Sajid Javid said appointment processes should be "urgently reviewed". NHS England said the new services would offer a new clinical approach.'



Thank you!



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