

Gay Pride marchers in London. The ONS said young people from the city were most likely to identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual
Photograph: Guy Bell/Rex



One in 50 Britons say they are lesbian, gay or bisexual, researchers are told

Haroon Siddique

The number of people identifying as lesbian, gay or bisexual rose last year, to 2% of the UK population, up from 1.7% in 2015, according to the Office for National Statistics. It means just over 1 million people identified as LGB last year.

The ONS, which stresses that sexual identity “does not necessarily reflect sexual attraction or sexual behaviour”, described it as “a statistically significant increase”. The figures are still notably below many estimates of the LGB population. In 2005, when the ONS was analysing the financial implications of the new Civil Partnerships Act, the Treasury estimated gay or lesbian people made up 6% of people, or 3.6 million.

The LGBT charity Stonewall has suggested the proportion is between 5% and 7% while others have put it as high as one in 10. A Stonewall spokesman said many LGBT people were still reluctant to come out. “Although people may feel comfortable answering an anonymous survey, they may struggle to open up about their identity with friends, family or colleagues,” the spokesman said.

“To ensure that LGBT people feel safe and supported, it is vital to recognise the discrimination and anti-LGBT abuse that still exists. Our recent hate crime research shows that one in five LGBT people have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months.”

There was a corresponding fall in the proportion of people identifying as heterosexual or straight, from 93.7% in 2015 to 93.4% last year. The biggest percentage increase was in those who said they were bisexual, which rose from 0.6% to 0.8%,

while those identifying as gay or lesbian rose from 1.1% of the population to 1.2%.

The proportion who said they did not know or refused to answer remained the same at 4.1%, while 0.5% identified as “other”, up from 0.4% in 2015.

London had the largest proportion of the population who identified as LGB (2.7%), and the east of England had the lowest (1.2%).

Emily Knipe, of the ONS, said the relatively high proportion in the capital could be down to a “young and diverse population”. People aged 16 to 24 were most likely to identify as LGB in 2016 (4.1%). The median age of the population of London was 34.8 years, while that of the east of England was 41.5 years.

An ONS spokeswoman said: “Younger people could be more likely to explore

their sexuality, combined with more social acceptability of sexual identities today and the ability to express these.”

The larger number of young people who identify as LGB was also cited by the ONS as one of the reasons why 70.7% of the LGB population said they were single and had never married or in a civil partnership. Another factor was the relatively recent availability to same-sex couples of legal unions.

A higher proportion of males (2.3%) than females (1.6%) continue to identify as LGB, up from 2% and 1.5% respectively in the previous year.

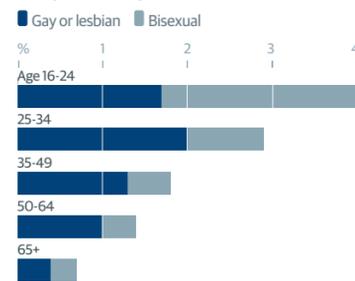
People of mixed race or “multiple ethnic groups” continued to be most likely to identify as LGB, at 4.3%. Of these, 2.4% said they were bisexual and 1.9% said they were gay or lesbian.

Sexual identity

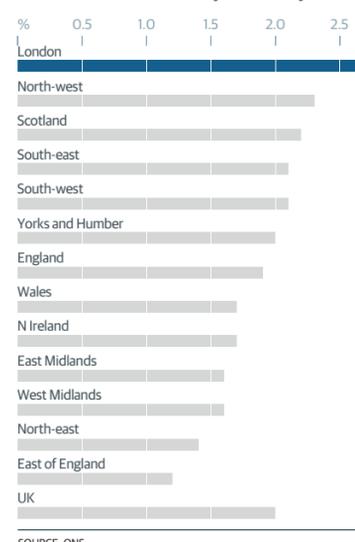
2% of people in the UK identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual



Younger people are more likely to identify as LGB



Londoners are most likely to identify as LGB



SOURCE: ONS

Stonewall claims 1m figure is far below true number

Treasury put 2005 lesbian and gay population at 6%

Oxford votes to strip Aung San Suu Kyi of freedom of the city

Jamie Grierson

Aung San Suu Kyi, the de facto leader of Myanmar, is to be stripped of the freedom of the city of Oxford, where she studied as an undergraduate, over her response to the Rohingya crisis.

Oxford city council unanimously supported a cross-party motion that it was “no longer appropriate” for her to hold the honour. A special meeting will be held to confirm the decision on 27 November.

The council leader, Bob Price, called it an “unprecedented step” for the local authority, according to the BBC.

Aung San Suu Kyi has drawn increasing criticism in recent months for her apparent defence of Myanmar’s treatment of its Rohingya minority, described by the UN as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing”. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Oxford council bestowed the freedom of the city on Aung San Suu Kyi in 1997, when she was being held as a political prisoner by Myanmar’s military junta.

A number of British institutions are reviewing or removing honours bestowed during her campaign for democracy. The governing body of St Hugh’s college,

Oxford, where she studied, recently removed her portrait from display and Unison, Britain’s second largest trade union, announced last month that it would suspend her honorary membership.

Bristol University, which awarded her an honorary degree, said it was reviewing its award and the London School of Economics’ student union said it would be stripping her of her honorary presidency.



Aung San Suu Kyi, the de facto leader of Myanmar, is accused of inaction over violence against the minority Muslim Rohingya population

As a leader of Myanmar’s opposition, Aung San Suu Kyi won international praise and a Nobel peace prize in 1991. Despite being barred from running for president, she won a decisive victory in the country’s 2015 election, and was eventually given the title of state councillor.

The Disasters Emergency Committee has stepped up its humanitarian relief as more than half a million people, mainly Muslim Rohingya, have fled the violence.

Advertisement

Section 48 Planning Act 2008 Regulation 4 Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) The Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Order 201X NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

Notice is hereby given that Roxhill (Junction 15) Limited of Lumonics House, Valley Drive, Swift Valley, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 1TQ (the “Applicant”) proposes to apply to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a development consent order (“DCO”) to authorise the construction, operation, use and maintenance of a strategic rail freight interchange (“SRFI”) including warehousing and associated highway works on land west of the M1 motorway at Junction 15 and east of the Northampton Loop Railway Line to include a bypass to the north of the village of Roade (the “Application”).

The project is EIA development (that means development that requires an environmental impact assessment) and the Applicant will submit an Environmental Statement with the Application.

The proposed DCO will, amongst other things, authorise the construction, operation, use and maintenance of:

- An intermodal freight terminal including container storage and HGV parking, rail sidings to serve individual warehouses, and with the capability to also provide a ‘rapid rail freight’ facility as part of the intermodal freight terminal;
- Up to 468,000 sq m (approximately 5 million sq ft) (gross internal area) of warehousing and ancillary buildings, with additional floorspace provided in the form of mezzanines;
- New road infrastructure and works to the existing road network, including the provision of a new access and associated works to the A508, a new bypass to the village of Roade, improvements to Junction 15 and to Junction 15A of the M1 motorway, the A45, and other highway improvements at junctions on the local highway network;
- Strategic landscaping and tree planting, including diverted public rights of way; and
- Earthworks and demolition of existing structures on the SRFI site.

A copy of details of the proposals, preliminary environmental information, plans, maps and other draft documents showing the nature and location of the proposed development, may be inspected free of charge from 9 October 2017 at the following locations during the hours set out below.

- South Northamptonshire District Council** (in the Library on the ground floor), Towcester, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, NN12 6AD (Opening Times: 09:00 – 18:00 Monday to Friday, 09:00 – 17:00 Saturdays and 11:00 – 14:00 Sundays);
- Northamptonshire County Council**, One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton, NN1 1ED (Opening Times: 09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday);
- Northampton Borough Council**, St Giles’ Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE (Opening Times 09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday);
- Roade Library**, High Street, Roade, NN7 2NW (Opening Times: 10:00 – 14:00 Wednesdays and Saturdays, 14:00 – 18:00 Thursdays and Fridays, 11:00 – 14:00 Sundays);
- Hunsbury Library**, Overslade Close, Northampton, NN4 0RZ (Opening Times: 09:00 – 18:00 Monday to Friday, 09:00 – 17:00 Saturdays and 11:00 – 14:00 Sundays);
- Wootton Library**, Wootton Community Centre, Curtle Hill, Northampton, NN4 6ED (Opening Times: 14:00 – 17:00 Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10:00 – 13:00 Wednesdays and 11:00 – 14:00 Saturdays and 11:00 – 14:00 Sundays);
- Milton Malsor Parish Council**, The Paddocks, Baker Street, Gayton, Northampton, NN7 3EZ by arrangement with the Clerk;
- Roade Parish Council**, Parish Office, Roade Village Hall, Bailey Brooks Lane, Roade, (Opening Times: 10.00 – 14.00 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays);
- Courteenhall Parish Meeting**, The Estate Office, Courteenhall, Northampton, NN7 2QD (Opening Times: Opening Times 09:00 – 17:00 Monday to Friday);
- Collingtree Parish Council**, 33 Friars Avenue, Delapre, Northampton, NN4 8PY by arrangement with the Clerk; and
- Blisworth Parish Council**, Beech House, 17 Dean’s Row, Gayton, Northamptonshire, NN7 3HA by arrangement with the Clerk.

The documents relating to the proposed Application will be on display at the above locations from **9 October 2017 to 24 November 2017**. Further details in relation to the project and these documents can be found on the Applicant’s website www.northampton-gateway.co.uk. Copies of the plans, maps and documents can be provided in paper copy form at a cost of £500.00 or on USB/Memory Stick or CD free of charge. A proportionate charge will be made for copies of individual documents and/or plans.

Any responses or representations in respect of the proposed Application, should be sent in writing to the Applicant, at Northampton Gateway SRFI, PO Box 10570, Nottingham, NG2 9RG or by e-mail to contact-us@northampton-gateway.co.uk by no later than **24 November 2017**. Comments can also be made on the Applicant’s website, at the public exhibitions or by telephone (01788 538 440).

Please be aware all responses will be made public.

In pictures
The most arresting news photography from the last 24 hours
theguardian.com/inpictures