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Britain's No 1 problems column

MY SEX-OP PLEA

Q I HAVE been reading about the model Tula, who had a sex-change operation. I am 22, and have thought seriously about such an operation for six years now.

The trouble is I have had neither the money nor the guts to do it. I have a job which I would undoubtedly lose and I do not want to hurt my family.

Where do I get advice?

Please don't rip this letter up.

We are not perverts but human beings who were born the wrong sex.

■ DEIDRE SAYS: I have received many letters like yours since Tula told her story.

You can get information about this difficult and expensive operation from the Self-Help Association For Transsexuals, 48 Liddell Way, South Ascot, Berks.

They will explain the problems you are likely to encounter in trying to live as a woman and in helping your family to cope.

I wish you luck — I am afraid yours won't be an easy life.