



House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs  
Committee

House of Commons Justice Committee  
Joint Committee on Human Rights

House of Lords Constitution Committee

House of Commons SW1A 0AA / House of Lords SW1A 0PW



Rt Hon Dominic Raab  
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice  
Ministry of Justice

27 May 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

**Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of a 'Bill of Rights'**

In the Queen's Speech delivered before both Houses of Parliament on 10 May 2022, it was announced that the Government would be bringing forward a 'Bill of Rights' in this parliamentary session, and it is understood that your department will be leading on this Bill.

As was made clear in the Queen's Speech, the Government's intent in bringing forward this Bill is to "ensure the constitution is defended" and "restore the balance of power between the legislature and the courts". Such proposals are therefore of supreme constitutional significance and have the potential to impact on the rights of individuals for many years to come. Thus, it is vital that any proposals and legislative measures are subject to the fullest amount of public and parliamentary scrutiny to ensure their appropriateness, practicality, and longevity.

We were therefore disappointed to note that the proposed 'Bill of Rights' has not been put forward for pre-legislative scrutiny, as was recommended by the Joint Committee on Human Rights in their recent report. We would urge the Government to reconsider. The Bill should be considered in draft by a Joint Committee.

We are copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP; the Cabinet Secretary, Simon Case; the Leader of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP; the Leader of the House of Lords, Rt Hon Baroness Evans of Bowes Park; and Chair of the Liaison Committee, Sir Bernard Jenkin MP.

**William Wragg MP**  
Chair, Public Administration and  
Constitutional Affairs Committee

**Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP**  
Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights

**Sir Robert Neill MP**  
Chair, Justice Committee

**Baroness Drake**  
Chair, Lords Constitution Committee