



HOUSE OF LORDS

Select Committee on the Constitution

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Lord True,
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
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7 June 2022

Dear Lord True,

Procurement Bill

I write on behalf of the Constitution Committee about the Procurement Bill.

We note that under Clause 12 a Minister of the Crown is empowered, but not required, to publish a statement setting out the Government's strategic priorities in relation to procurement. Before doing so the Minister is required to carry out consultation as he or she considers appropriate, make changes to the statement that appear to the Minister to be necessary in view of responses to the consultation, and lay the statement before Parliament. If either House of Parliament resolves not to approve the statement of priorities within 40 days, it must be withdrawn. If the statement is approved, a contracting authority must thereafter have regard to the national procurement policy statement.

The Committee would be grateful for clarification as to why the statement of priorities is not mandatory, given that it is considered important enough to require consultation and Parliamentary approval. Further information you can provide as to the justification for this approach would be welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Drake
Chair of the Constitution Committee