



From Joanna Cherry QC MP, Acting Chair

Rt Hon. Dominic Raab MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

By email

14 July 2022

Dear Lord Chancellor,

We were extremely disappointed to hear yesterday that you will not be giving evidence to our committee next week, as previously arranged.

On 22 June, you introduced the Bill of Rights Bill to the House of Commons. The Bill will repeal the Human Rights Act 1998 and change the way in which rights under the European Convention on Human Rights are given effect in UK law. It is the most important piece of rights legislation this country has seen for nearly a quarter of a century. It did not, despite the request of this Committee and others, receive pre-legislative scrutiny. It is therefore crucial that we are able to question you on the contents of the Bill, along with other pressing human rights issues.

In responding to our report on the Government's consultation on the Human Rights Act on 6 July 2022, you told us "I look forward to the opportunity to address the Government's proposals during my appearance before the Committee on 20 July." It is a commitment you referred to in the House of Commons Chamber on 22 June. On 21 June you had written to us and chairs of other committees to say that the Bill of Rights would have wide-reaching implications which would receive extensive scrutiny in both Houses, and that you looked forward to working with us throughout this process.

Whilst we understand that there are pressures that come with holding the dual roles of Lord Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister, accountability to Parliament should take priority. This date has been in our diaries and yours for some time. It is not clear why, at such short notice, other matters should take priority.

We therefore ask you to reconsider your decision not to attend on 20 July. We expect that if you do not attend then, you will commit to appearing before us during the week



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of 12 September instead. I would be grateful if you could respond to this letter by the end of Monday 18 July.

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Cherry QC MP

Acting Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights

CC Sir Bernard Jenkin, Chair, Liaison Committee, House of Commons;
Lord Gardiner of Kimble, Chair, Liaison Committee, House of Lords