



Ministry
of Justice

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The Right Honourable
Brandon Lewis CBE MP
Lord Chancellor and
Secretary of State for Justice

17 October 2022

BILL OF RIGHTS

Dear Joanna,

Thank you for your letter of the 29 September 2022 and for congratulating me on my appointment as Lord Chancellor.

As I take on the responsibility for human rights policy, I welcome the scrutiny of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and look forward to a collaborative relationship.

I can confirm that the Government stands by its manifesto commitment to update the Human Rights Act, but that we are looking again at the Bill of Rights Bill to ensure that we deliver on the Government's objectives in this area in the best way possible. The Bill's progress through parliamentary processes has therefore been paused.

As we conduct a thorough review of all policies within the Bill, we will be considering the evidence base that has underpinned the work on the Bill so far. This of course includes the Independent Human Rights Act Review (IHRAR), for which the Government remains very grateful to Sir Peter Gross and his panel.

I can also assure you that the UK of course remains a committed party to the European Convention on Human Rights.

While I look forward to discussing our policy proposals with the Committee in due course, the work to review the Human Rights reform is currently in its early stages. I would therefore suggest the meeting to take place early next year when I will be able to more fully update the Committee on the Government's ambitions in this area. If helpful, I would be very happy to arrange an introductory meeting with you in the meantime.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON BRANDON LEWIS CBE MP

LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE