



Joint Committee on Human Rights
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From Joanna Cherry KC MP

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP

Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

28 October 2022

Dear Dominic,

Congratulations on your reappointment as Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice. I look forward to being able to pick up our previous discussions about the Government's plans for a new Bill of Rights and other human rights matters.

On 17 October, your predecessor wrote to the Committee, confirming that the Government stood by its manifesto commitment to update the Human Rights Act but saying that the department was looking again at the Bill of Rights Bill, to ensure that it delivered on the Government's objectives "in the best way possible" and that the Bill's progress through Parliamentary stages had therefore been paused. In particular, he mentioned the Independent Human Rights Act Review (IHRAR) produced by the panel chaired by Sir Peter Gross as a report that would be considered again as part of the evidence base underpinning work on the Bill.

Indeed, that position on content and timing was one that was reiterated by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State last Monday during a Westminster Hall debate, when he confirmed that the commitment remained in line with the 2019 party manifesto – to review and update the Human Rights Act in a way that remains compliant with the ECHR, whatever changes are made.

We would be grateful for a confirmation on the current position, whether it has changed again, and if so in what way and to what timetable, by Friday 11 November.

We will also be in touch with your private office during the next days to find a suitable day to arrange for your appearance in front of the Committee to discuss the Bill of Rights Bill and other matters before Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Cherry KC MP

Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights