



Chloe Smith MP

Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and
Constitutional Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

1 December 2020

Dear William,

I am writing to thank the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee for its continued engagement and careful consideration of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act ("FTPA") and the system which shall be put in place when the FTPA is repealed.

The Government tabled a motion to fulfil its statutory responsibilities under the Fixed-term Parliaments Act to make arrangements for a committee to undertake a review of that Act. This motion, which was agreed to by the House without objection, provided that alongside a review of the existing legislation, this Joint Committee will be asked to carry out pre-legislative scrutiny of the Government's draft bill.

The Government made a commitment in its manifesto to repeal the Fixed-term Parliaments Act and it is appropriate that this Joint Committee of both Houses is, alongside its consideration of the 2011 Act, given the opportunity to scrutinise the Government's draft Bill. Given the consideration your Committee has given the FTPA to date I know you will want to study with interest the Government's proposals, and I look forward to your continued contribution to the debate. This scrutiny is essential to ensure that, when the FTPA is repealed, this important piece of our constitutional settlement is given the appropriate consideration and the right arrangements are put in its place.

Further to our meeting on 17 November in which we discussed the Government's draft Bill and the pre-legislative scrutiny arrangements, I look forward to sending in short order, a full response to your recent report on the FTPA which I have continued to consider with interest.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Chloe', followed by a horizontal line.

**Minister for the Constitution and Devolution
Chloe Smith MP**