



Ministry
of Justice

Lord Bellamy KC

Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State for Justice

The Rt Hon. Harriet Harman KC MP

Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: 109859

21 November 2023

Dear Harriet,

ARBITRATION BILL: INTRODUCTION

As you will have seen, the Arbitration Bill was introduced in the House of Lords today.

The Arbitration Act 1996 (the 1996 Act) provides a framework for arbitration in England and Wales and Northern Ireland. It had been 25 years since the 1996 Act came into force when the Ministry of Justice asked the Law Commission of England and Wales in 2021 to conduct a review of the Act. Following two public consultations, the Law Commission recommended targeted amendments to ensure the 1996 Act remains fit for purpose and provides a modern arbitral framework.

The Arbitration Bill is set to implement the Law Commission's recommendations in full. I attach a memorandum which sets out our ECHR analysis of the Bill as a whole.

I stand ready to respond to any questions that your Committee may have. To ensure a prompt response, it would be helpful if any correspondence from you could be copied to the Ministry of Justice Bill Team (Iona Bonaventura, email: iona.bonaventura@justice.gov.uk and Andrew Spence, email andrew.spence1@justice.gov.uk). If it would be helpful to you, our departmental lawyers would be happy to meet with your legal advisers to discuss the Bill.

Kind regards,

LORD BELLAMY KC