

Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
Scottish Affairs Committee
Welsh Affairs Committee



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office

25 January 2021

Dear Michael,

Lord Dunlop's Review of Union Capability and the Review of Intergovernmental Relations

Thank you for your letter of 18 January in response to our request for clarity about the timeframe for publication of the Dunlop Review.

It is deeply disappointing that your reply offers no further clarity about when we will see the publication of the Review or, just as importantly, the Government's response to Lord Dunlop's recommendations.

We understand from previous correspondence that Lord Dunlop delivered his report to the Prime Minister in the Autumn of 2019, which means that the Government has had over a year to consider and implement Lord Dunlop's recommendations. You informed [PACAC in September](#) last year that you had chosen not to publish either the Review, or the Government's response to it, because you wished for them both to be published alongside the conclusions of the joint review of Intergovernmental Relations (IGR). Whilst we appreciate why, at the time, you may have preferred the completeness of publishing both these reviews simultaneously, four months have now passed since that evidence session and the IGR review is yet to be concluded.

We believe that the Dunlop Review and the Government's response to it warrants its own scrutiny, particularly as, by your own admission, the Government has been implementing Lord Dunlop's recommendations for some months now. For as long as the Dunlop Review and the Government's formal response to it remain locked behind closed doors, it is impossible for Parliament to scrutinise any Government activity relating to the implementation of Lord Dunlop's recommendations.

Speaking to [PACAC on 10th December](#) you said:

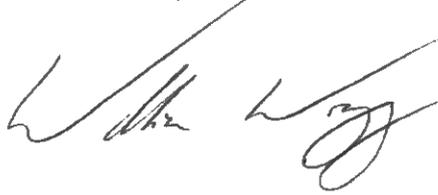
"One of the things we can reflect on is whether or not it is better, if we can't get that perfect agreement before the end of the year, to publish Andrew's report, to explain what we have done so far and also to explain the ongoing work that we are undertaking to complete and finish all of his recommendations".

As the IGR review was not concluded before the end of 2020, we feel that the time has come to publish the Dunlop Review alongside a response from the Government, detailing what has been done to implement the recommendations so far. We will then welcome a further update from the Government once the review of Intergovernmental Relations has been successfully concluded.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

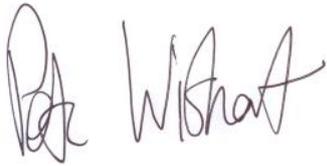
William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and
Constitutional Affairs Committee

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Simon Hoare MP
Chair, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

Handwritten signature of Simon Hoare in black ink, appearing as 'Simon Hoare'.

Pete Wishart MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee

Handwritten signature of Pete Wishart in black ink, appearing as 'Pete Wishart'.

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
Chair, Welsh Affairs Committee

Handwritten signature of Stephen Crabb in black ink, appearing as 'Stephen'.