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Tonia Antoniazzi
Chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

By email: NORTHIRCOM@parliament.uk

17 February 2025
Our reference: MC/25/75

Dear Tonia,

I am writing to let you know that I intend to commence provisions in the Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) 2022 Act next week.

I will commence the Act's Section 4 provision relating to the use of languages other than English in the court, enabling the repeal of the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737; and the Section 5 provision relating to the use of Ulster Scots in education, placing a duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate the use and understanding of Ulster Scots in the education system.

In commencing these provisions within the Act, which are for the Northern Ireland Executive to implement, together we are taking steps to enshrine respect and tolerance for all of Northern Ireland's diverse identities, cultures and traditions.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON HILARY BENN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND