



Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From the Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights

The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP

[Delivered by Email]

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Friday 19 September

Dear Home Secretary,

As you know from your welcome and helpful engagement with the Joint Committee on Human Rights in your previous role, the JCHR is responsible for considering matters relating to human rights in the United Kingdom, including the UK's compliance with its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Earlier this year, the previous Home Secretary announced that the Government will review how Article 8 of the ECHR applies in the immigration and asylum system. On 3 September, in your former capacity as Lord Chancellor, you told the Constitution Committee that the Government will be saying more about its views on Article 8 later in the autumn. You also said the Government believes there are steps that can be taken domestically in relation to Article 8. The Attorney General emphasised to our Committee on 2 April, and again to the Constitution Committee on 10 September, that any steps the Government took in this regard would be consistent with the UK's international obligations under the Convention.

The Committee would appreciate further details about when the Government expects to set out the conclusions of its review, and what form its statement later in the autumn will take. In particular, will the Government explain at that stage what steps it intends to take to implement the conclusions of the review, and whether it intends to introduce legislation in order to do so? Will the Government's statement of its position also explain how it has assessed the consistency of its proposed actions with the UK's international obligations?

It is important that there should be accurate and accessible information about immigration and asylum cases involving Article 8. Does the Government intend to publish comprehensive data about the success rate of appeals in tribunals where human rights arguments are raised?

I would be grateful for a response to this letter by Monday 6 October.

Lord Alton of Liverpool

Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights