



**LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
THE RT. HON. JACOB REES-MOGG, M.P.**



The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman Q.C. M.P.,
Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: JRM/SC144
13 April 2020

Dear Harriet,

Thank you for your letter of 31 March about the work of the Joint Committee on Human Rights and the steps we are taking to combat coronavirus.

All the committees, across both Houses, have an important role in scrutinising the Government and I am committed to finding ways to ensure this can continue effectively. Select committees have traditionally always been able to operate during recesses and, following a request from the Procedure Committee, we acted quickly to allow them to continue their important scrutiny function by working remotely.

You will be aware that the Speaker has written to me with further suggestions for changing the way Parliament works as we deal with this unprecedented challenge. Parliament's role of scrutinising government, authorising spending and making laws must be fulfilled and in these unprecedented times, that means considering every technological solution available. We are exploring options with the parliamentary authorities in readiness for Parliament's return.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,