



Northern
Ireland
Office

The Rt. Hon. Conor Burns MP
Minister of State
Northern Ireland Office

E: correspondence@nio.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/nio
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Simon Hoare MP
Chair, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

22 March 2022

Dear Simon,

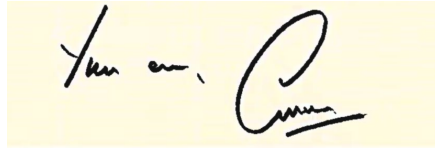
Following my engagement with the Committee on 8 February and the interest from its members in the New Decade New Approach (NDNA) commitments on identity and language legislation, I wanted to update you in writing.

The Government fully appreciates the importance of this legislation, which is why we undertook to introduce it in Parliament in the absence of progress from the Northern Ireland Executive by the end of September. We have been working hard to do so since that commitment took effect, and to ensure that the draft legislation delivers on what the Northern Ireland Parties carefully negotiated in NDNA.

During the session, I confirmed to the Committee that the Government's intention was to introduce the legislation ahead of the pre-election period. However, due to pressures on the parliamentary timetable, including legislation on the situation in Ukraine, it has regrettably not been possible to do so.

I want to assure you that the Government remains resolutely committed to introducing the legislation following the elections. Reflecting the commitments I made at the Committee session, I can also reconfirm that you will be provided an opportunity to

review the Bill in private ahead of introduction, and the offer of a technical briefing to members of the Committee at a similar point.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a yellow sticky note. The signature is cursive and appears to read "John ...".