



Ministry
of Justice

BOR (15-16) 012

The Right Honourable
Michael Gove MP
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP
Chair of Joint Committee on Human Rights
Committee Office
House of Commons
London
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(11/2) February 2016

Harriet Harman

THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR A BILL OF RIGHTS

Thank you for your letter of 20 January raising your concerns in relation to the possibility of overlap between the consultation on proposals for a Bill of Rights and elections to the devolved legislatures.

The government was elected with a mandate to reform and modernise the UK Human Rights Framework. I have made clear that the government is committed to consulting fully on proposals prior to the introduction of any legislation. My ministerial colleagues and I have already engaged with the devolved administrations on human rights reform and I am committed to continuing to do so throughout the process. We will also engage fully with the public and with legal, academic and civil society stakeholders in all parts of the UK, and, indeed, we have already made a start in this process.

In terms of the timing of our consultation, we will publish our proposals in due course and we will, of course, adhere to any guidance published by the Cabinet Office in respect of the pre-election periods.

Furthermore, I very much welcome any further engagement from the Committee as part of the consultation process.

Yours, with every good wish
Michael

MICHAEL GOVE