

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for
Justice and Deputy Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP

UK Government

(Sent by email)

6 May 2022

Dear Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and Deputy Prime Minister The Rt Hon
Dominic Raab MP

Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights

We, and many of our member organisations from across Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, submitted responses to the UK Government Human Rights Act Reform consultation. We welcomed the opportunity to do so, and we also appreciated the opportunities to take part in meetings with UK Government officials and with Lord Wolfson as part of that consultation process.

During several of these meetings, we raised the importance of transparency around changes to human rights law. Transparency is of course, a key human rights principle, and is essential for open and accountable law making. In particular, because many civil society organisations use the Human Rights Act (HRA) everyday to work for better decisions for those that they work with and for, they are very keen to engage fully with proposals to amend human rights legal protections. They can only fully do so, and understand decisions taken, with a fully transparent process.

We further note that we, and many other organisations, have spent considerable time and resource in collating and expressing our views in the consultation responses. Having already done so for the Independent Review of the Human Rights Act whose recommendations then played very little role in the UK Government's HRA proposals, there is particular need for openness and clarity around how the UK Government is taking into account respondents' views in this HRA consultation.

In response to questions about transparency of the consultation process, your officials intimated that they were exploring ways in which to publish the consultation responses. We are now writing to seek confirmation and reassurance that all of the consultation responses that were submitted (where the respondent's permission has been given) will be published online in advance of the publication of any resulting Bill. We also request that the UK Government publish its own response to the consultation responses so that the public can clearly see the rationale for any decisions taken by the UK Government around the future of the Human Rights Act.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course, and in advance of the publication of any HRA-related Bill.

Yours sincerely



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Human Rights Consortium Scotland



Kevin Hanratty

Human Rights Consortium (Northern Ireland)



Charles Whitmore

Wales Governance Centre and WCVA