

# LIBERTY

Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ

28 February 2022

Dear Lord Chancellor,

We the undersigned note with disappointment and regret the Ministry of Justice's failure to make the consultation *Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights* accessible to disabled people.

Despite repeated calls from Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs) and human rights groups, it has taken until more than ten weeks into the consultation process for a supposedly 'easy read' version to be produced.

The text-only accessible version of the consultation that the Government has published is insufficient to the point of being insulting. We note the claim that an updated version is forthcoming, but with this in mind it is ever more unacceptable that no extension has been offered along with it.

There was no reason for the consultation to be launched before provision was made that would enable everyone affected to take part in the process. There is certainly no reason why disabled people should now have only 12 days – or less – to respond to proposals that will have a direct impact on their lives.

Even with an easy read version, people with learning difficulties will need support to respond, which takes time to arrange and execute. Refusing to extend the deadline is refusing to enable people to take part.

We call on the Ministry of Justice to provide a proper extension to this process to allow for disabled people to engage with the consultation. If the Government felt that 12 weeks was an appropriate length of time to respond to the consultation, then 12 weeks from the day that the proper easy read version is published should be the new deadline.

Yours sincerely,

Martha Spurrier, Director, Liberty

Sacha Deshmukh, Interim Chief Executive, Amnesty International UK

Svetlana Kotova, Director of Campaigns and Justice, Inclusion London

Kamran Mallick, Chief Executive, Disability Rights UK

Yasmine Ahmed, UK Director, Human Rights Watch

Fiona Rutherford, Chief Executive, JUSTICE

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Caroline Collier, CEO, Inclusion Barnet

Bella Sankey, Director, Detention Action

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Morven Brooks, CEO, Disability Equality Scotland

David Buxton, Chair, British Deaf Association

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Gisela Valle, Director, Latin American Women's Rights Service

Oliver Robertson, Head of Witness and Worship, Quakers in Britain

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Tom Brake, Director, Unlock Democracy

Aswini Weeraratne, Chair, Human Rights Lawyers Association

David Buxton, Chief Executive, Action on Disability

Lynne Turnbull, Chief Executive Officer, Disability Positive

Amanda Casson Webb, Joint Chief Executive, Royal Association for Deaf people (RAD)

Liz Reason, Chair, Executive, Green Party of England & Wales

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Fizza Qureshi, CEO, Migrants' Rights Network

Jamie Burton, Chair, Just Fair

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Housing Working Group

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Chris Jones, Director, Statewatch

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Phil Stevens, Chief Executive, Disability Action Haringey

Sarifa Patel, Co-Chair, Disability Rep Forum

Gemma McKeown, Solicitor, Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ)

Brian Dikoff, Legal Organiser, Migrants Organise

Rupert Skilbeck, Director, REDRESS

Alan Benson MBE, Co Chair, Transport for All

Anne Pridmore, Chair, Being the Boss

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Sam Smith, CEO, C-Change Scotland

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