



Ministry
of Justice

Lucy Frazer QC MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State for Justice

Bob Neill MP
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

21 June 2018

Dear Bob,

VOYEURISM (OFFENCES) (NO.2) BILL

I am aware that you have taken an interest in the campaign to make 'upskirting' a sexual offence and have written to the Prime Minister to encourage the swift introduction of this bill. In light of this, I am writing to let you know that we have today introduced the Voyeurism (Offences) (No.2) Bill to create two new offences to make the reprehensible behaviour of "upskirting" a specific criminal offence. Please find enclosed a copy of the Bill and the Impact Assessment for your information. I will also place a copy of the Impact Assessment in the House Library.

As you know, Wera Hobhouse MP introduced a Private Members Bill on 6 March to specifically criminalise "upskirting". As the Bill did not make immediate progress through that process, the government has decided to bring forward this Bill to ensure that these important changes are on the statute as soon as possible.

As you will see, the Bill mirrors closely the measures introduced by Wera Hobhouse MP and the Scottish offences by inserting two new offences into the Sexual Offences Act 2003 for instances where a person operates equipment or records an image under another person's clothing with the intention of viewing, or enabling another person to view, their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear). We have closely consulted with Wera on the proposed reforms, in particular seeking her support for additional provisions in the Bill that will impose notification requirements (commonly referred to as the sex offenders' register) for the most serious offenders, which is an important safeguarding measure.

We want to act quickly to address this gap, and I am very pleased with the level of cross-party work and support we have already seen. I am aware that there are a number of other questions and debates about the wider sexual offences regime and we keep this area of law under review.

We welcome your continued support as the Bill progresses. I am writing in similar terms to the Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee.

Yours sincerely

LUCY FRAZER QC MP