



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

Baroness Barran
Minister for Civil Society
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

www.gov.uk/dcms
enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

Lord Adonis
Lord Alton of Liverpool
Lord Fox
Baroness Northover

INT2021/03960/DC
22 February 2021

My Lords,

Telecommunications Infrastructure (Leasehold Property) Bill: Human Rights

I am grateful for your contributions to the debate at Third Reading on 28 January. I am now writing to give you a fuller answer to the points raised in relation to modern slavery in telecoms supply chains and genocide.

Lord Alton, Lord Adonis and Lord Fox raised the issue of modern slavery in relation to the Telecommunications (Security) Bill, which completed its Committee stage in the House of Commons on 26 January. That Bill is focused on the security of public electronic communications networks and services. The Bill places new security duties on public telecoms providers, and creates new national security powers for the government to manage the risks posed by high risk vendors. Given this context, that Bill - like this one - is not the right place to address the issue of modern slavery.

With regard to the matter of human rights more widely, there was much debate on genocide and I committed in particular to writing to Baroness Northover to clarify the position. As you may have seen, Ministers from the Department for International Trade and Ministry of Justice sent a letter to all peers on 2 February to set out the Government's position on genocide in the context of the Trade Bill, and I would urge you to continue to engage with them on that matter going forward.

I want to thank you again for your contributions to this Bill, and your dedication to raising human rights standards internationally. I hope that this letter is helpful. Nevertheless, do please get in touch with my officials via dcmslordsminister@dcms.gov.uk if you have any questions about any of the above. I will place a copy of this letter in the library of both Houses.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana Barran".

Baroness Barran
Minister for Civil Society