



Department for
International Trade



Department for
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THE COMMERCIAL RENT (CORONAVIRUS) BILL

My Lords,

Thank you for your continued engagement regarding this Bill. I am writing now to address a key area that has been raised throughout the Bill's passage.

Monitoring and evaluation

The government published its plan for the post-implementation review (PIR) of the Bill alongside introduction, in the Impact Assessment. The PIR plan sets out the longer-term evaluation plan of the scheme, which aims to assess how well the scheme has met the policy objectives.

There have been several points raised in debates regarding the more immediate scrutiny of the scheme; these have focused on the cost of arbitration (and the use of the delegated power to cap fees) as well as monitoring awards throughout delivery.

In response, I am pleased to attach an updated PIR plan, which notes the areas that will require immediate and rapid monitoring. The PIR also sets out, in detail, how these areas will be evaluated, and when. These matters include:

- a) Cost of arbitration scheme
- b) The time-period for application
- c) Monitoring awards

We have brought to Parliament a scheme that we believe is fit for purpose; and the input of arbitration bodies and other key stakeholders has been obtained whilst developing the

scheme, to ensure that the process is workable and practicable. It is however obviously sensible to monitor the scheme once in operation and, should any issues arise, these will be addressed through stakeholder engagement and, if needed, updating the guidance. The updated PIR plan will ensure that the scheme is closely monitored throughout its delivery, and that any issues that arise are quickly identified.

I hope that the above information is of use, and I look forward to discussing these matters ahead of Report Stage. I intend to write separately to outline the proposed government amendments.

I will be placing a copy of this letter in the library of the House of Lords.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grimstone', written in a cursive style.

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt
Minister for Investment
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