



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



**Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon
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**Prime Minister's Special
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Our ref:
Your ref:

13 December 2022

Lord Ponsonby
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Fred,

I write to you in response to your statements relating to the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill, which concerned the Government's legislative approach to exercising powers under the Bill.- For the benefit of the House, I shall place a copy of my response in the Lords Library.

Allow me to state from the outset that I share your consideration for comprehensive and accurate law-making. It is not the intention of this Government to hastily introduce Statutory Instruments that have not undergone internal due diligence and I am confident that secondary legislation made under the powers in the Bill will provide the accurate, precise and comprehensive clarifications for which the powers are intended and will meet the exacting requirements of the scrutiny of both Houses.

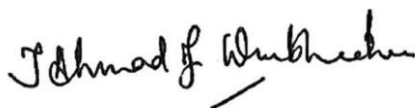
At the same time, as you are aware, we are working urgently to address the serious socio-political impact that the Protocol is currently having in Northern Ireland. We cannot allow this situation to drift and that is why we have brought forward this Bill in its current form. We must take account of this need for urgency when considering the process around regulation-making powers in this Bill.

The approach to legislation made under the powers in the Bill, including the quantity of secondary legislation needed, will depend on the particular changes being made by the relevant Statutory Instrument. The Government committed to working closely with businesses and other key stakeholders over the summer to help inform the details of the design of the regimes, and these consultations will be reflected in the final legislation, which will be brought forward in due course.

However, I hope it will provide some reassurance in reiterating that, whilst the Government is legislating in order to provide for solutions to the issues with the Protocol, it will do so only at the appropriate time and as a result of a thorough analysis of the impacts. Parliament will have the opportunity to scrutinise any regulations and the Government's approach to them in the usual fashion, and the Government will provide all the usual accompanying material under the normal parliamentary procedures.

Thank you again for your detailed consideration of this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON

Minister of State

Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict