



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Lord Khan of Burnley**  
*Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State*

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**[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)**

Lord Dodds of Duncairn  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

1 August 2024

Dear Lord Dodds,

Thank you for your contribution to the debate on Tuesday 23 July on the constitution and devolution. In the debate, you raised the issue of next steps on repealing and replacing the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 and the European Union's role in Northern Ireland matters.

On repealing and replacing the Legacy Act, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has this week made a [Written Statement](#) to Parliament laying out the Government's plans. The Government has written to the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal to formally abandon all its grounds of appeal against the section 4 Human Rights Act declarations of incompatibility made by the Northern Ireland High Court in relation to the Legacy Act.

The Government will now begin preparations to address the incompatibility findings of the High Court, which will include laying a draft remedial order under section 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998 to remove offending provisions from the statute book, including the provisions on conditional immunity. The Northern Ireland Office has begun work on this, with a view to laying the draft order in Parliament as soon as parliamentary time allows.

The Government has also committed to reverse the current prohibition on bringing new civil proceedings, and to propose measures to allow inquests previously halted to proceed. The Government will also undertake a period of consultation with all interested parties, including victims and survivors, to seek their views.

The above-mentioned Written Ministerial Statement also clearly sets out the Government's intention to proceed with appealing the issues of law that have arisen in respect of Article 2 of the Windsor Framework and its interpretation and effect. It is important this is clarified for the benefit of ensuring legal certainty and maintaining a clear human rights framework in Northern Ireland.

The Prime Minister has separately affirmed the UK Government's commitment to staying in the European Court of Human Rights.

I will place a copy of this letter in the House Library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Khan', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Lord Khan of Burnley**  
**Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State**