

The Lord Jackson of Peterborough
House of Lords
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4 June 2025

Dear Stewart,

BORDER SECURITY, ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION BILL: HOUSE OF LORDS SECOND READING

I am writing further to the debate in the Lords at Second Reading, where I committed to write to you (Official Report 2 June column 591) about discussions with other countries around reform of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

As I set out in the debate, I am aware that a letter, signed by leaders of Italy, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic, Belgium and Austria, has been circulated.

I would take this opportunity to reaffirm the Government's commitment to the ECHR and recognition of the importance of an independent and impartial judiciary in determining its application.

The Human Rights Act is an important part of our constitutional arrangements and fundamental to human rights protections in the UK. However, it is important that there is discussion about how international instruments are implemented, to ensure that they continue to operate effectively as safeguards of human rights, and to ensure that the needs of our societies continue to be met.

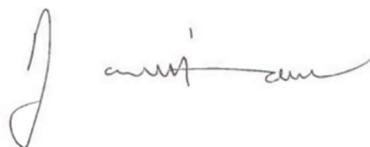
The Government shares the concerns, highlighted by the nine signatories of the letter, about the appropriate balance between the public interest and individual rights in cases concerning foreign national offenders. These should be aired and discussed within the Council of Europe to ensure a full understanding of the issues, and how they might be tackled so that, as the Secretary General noted, liberty and security, and justice and responsibility, are held in balance. We look forward to playing our part in supporting any considered dialogue that seeks to achieve this aim.

More widely, as you know, the Government has set out its plans for reform of the immigration system in the White Paper entitled [Restoring control over the immigration system](#).

I look forward to further debate of the Bill as it progresses to Committee stage.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

Lord Hanson of Flint