



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Nusrat Ghani MP
Minister for Industry and
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Clare Adamson MSP
Convenor of the Constitution, Europe,
External Affairs and Culture Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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13th December 2022

By email: CEEAC.Committee@parliament.scot

Dear Clare,

Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill

I was very grateful for your letter of 16th November which kindly invited me to appear at the Constitution External Affairs and Culture Committee of the Scottish Parliament to give evidence on the Retained EU Law Bill ("REUL Bill") currently going through the UK Parliament. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to you.

I understand that the Committee will consider and report on the Scottish Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) lodged for the REUL Bill and examine the potential impact of the Bill in devolved areas, with a particular focus on the issues identified in your report on *The Impact of Brexit on Devolution*. I understand that the former Chancellor for the Duchy of Lancaster, Minister for Intergovernmental Relations and Minister for Equalities wrote to you on 13 October regarding the Committee's publication of the report.

I noted with interest that the Scottish Government led a debate on the Bill in the chamber of the Scottish Parliament on 29th November. I further note that this was before your committee had concluded its evidence sessions on the LCM for the Bill and before any committee report has been published.

I recognise that there are genuine concerns within Scotland about the REUL Bill and I would like to take this opportunity to outline the UK Government's position. The REUL Bill is intended to be an enabling piece of legislation. It will create powers which will enable departments and the devolved governments to amend, revoke and replace outdated REUL and ensure our regulations are modern and agile and tailored to UK specific priorities. The majority of the powers within the Bill are conferred concurrently on the devolved governments. This will enable Scotland to make active decisions regarding REUL within its devolved competence, for the benefit of citizens and business in Scotland.

At present there is no mechanism in law for the efficient reform of REUL and I'm sure you can agree with me that reforms are required to deliver on the UK's long-term ambitions. As a government, we remain committed to working with the Scottish Government and Parliament and respecting the devolved settlements.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to provide evidence to the Committee but officials from this Department will send written evidence. I believe the Committee would find this evidence useful in your consideration of the Bill.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'N Ghani'.A long, slightly curved horizontal line in blue ink, extending from the left towards the right.

NUSRAT GHANI MP
Minister for Industry and Investment Security