

Foreign Affairs Committee

Committee Office House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 6105 | Email FAC@parliament.uk
Website www.parliament.uk

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon
Minister of State for Overseas Territories
Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

26 February 2018

Following your evidence session on 7 February 2018 and your letter of the same day, the Foreign Affairs Committee requests further clarification as to the timeline of decisions made by the UK Government leading to Bermuda's withdrawal of the entitlement for same sex couples to marry.

During the oral evidence session on 7 February 2018 you responded to Mr Bryant's comments regarding the status of homosexuality as a criminal offence in some Commonwealth countries as a challenge but one that you continue to raise. Following the oral evidence session, on the same day, the Committee received a letter from you that confirmed the Secretary of State would not intervene in Bermuda's decision to withdraw the right of same sex couples to marry and that the Governor had given his assent to the Bill on 7 February 2018.

The Committee wishes to know:

- What is the process and timeframe for the UK to review Bills passed by the Parliament of Bermuda?
- With regard the Domestic Partnership Bill, when exactly the Secretary of State made the decision not to intervene in the passing of this Bill
- At what time that decision was relayed to the Governor of Bermuda
- At what time on 7 February the Governor signified assent to the Bill.

The Committee asks for a reply no later than 12 March 2018.

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee