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Nick Gibb MP
Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Draft Voting
Eligibility (Prisoners) Bill
House of Commons
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DRAFT VOTING ELIGIBILITY (PRISONERS) BILL

Thank you very much for your work chairing the Joint Committee of both Houses which scrutinised this draft Bill. The Government is grateful to the Committee for its work on the very contentious question of whether some prisoners should be permitted to vote.

The pre-legislative scrutiny your Committee gave the draft Bill allowed the strong views to be aired that exist inside and outside Parliament. The Committee took forward its responsibilities carefully and effectively and its report is the product of that work.

Indeed, the report makes a number of new observations and adds recommendations to the debate which require thorough consideration. I am committed to ensuring that those issues are fully thought through and wanted to assure you that the matter is under active consideration within Government. I will keep you, and other former members of the Joint Committee, updated on all relevant developments.

I am copying this letter to the other former members of the Joint Committee.

CHRIS GRAYLING