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Rt. Hon Lord Goodlad
Chairman
Select Committee on the Constitution
House of Lords
London
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15 January 2010

Dear Alastair,

BRIBERY BILL

Further to my letter of 8 December, I am writing to let you have an update on when I would expect to respond to the Constitution Committee's report on clause 12 of the Bribery Bill.

Claire Ward and I wanted to reflect carefully on the debate in Grand Committee before responding to the Committee's report. You will also be aware from that debate on 13 January that I indicated that we will look again at the definition of a law enforcement agency for the purposes of clause 12; this was one of the points raised by your Committee. I believe that the Government's response to the report will be most helpful to the Committee if it sets out the conclusions of our consideration of this point.

You will be aware that Report stage of the Bill has been scheduled for 2 February. Were the Government to conclude that it would be appropriate to bring forward amendments to clause 12 (and I emphasised in the debate that I could not commit to any such amendments) we would expect to table them on or around 26 January. I would also expect to respond to the Committee's report around the same time.

Yours truly,
Wills,

WILLY BACH