Dear Bob,

GUARDIANSHIP (MISSING PERSONS) ACT 2017 - IMPLEMENTATION

I am writing to let you know that tomorrow, the Government will be publishing a consultation paper on the implementation of the Guardianship (Missing Persons) Act 2017, which the Government intends to bring into force in July 2019. The Act will create a new legal status of guardian of the property and financial affairs of a missing person. The paper seeks views on proposals for the content of rules of court, practice directions, regulations and a code of practice necessary to implement the Act.

The consultation will run for a period of 8 weeks and will be available at https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/guardianship-missing-persons-act. Following the consultation period, the department will consider the comments received. The department will, both during and after the consultation period, engage with stakeholders to refine its proposals.

I know that the Committee has taken an interest in this legislation, and indeed in its report on Presumption of Death in 2012 recommended that the Government legislate on this issue. I would welcome any comments the Committee may have on the proposals.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON LORD KEEN OF ELIE QC