



## Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

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The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
1 Horse Guards Road  
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19 March 2019

Dear Karen,

I am writing to you in relation to support for victims and survivors of historical institutional abuse.

As you know, this is matter we have raised several times, as a Committee and as individual Members. In our report on *Devolution and democracy in Northern Ireland*, we recommended that, if devolved institutions in Northern Ireland were not restored, necessary legislation relating to historical institutional abuse be taken through the UK parliament. During the passage of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation and Exercise of Functions) Act, I tabled an amendment asking that the guidance issued to the NI civil service should direct departments to take action implementing the recommendations of the Hart Inquiry. Other Members have continued to raise this issue, and you recently stated that, once the Executive Office consultation is complete and recommendations have been made, you will “consider them in the normal way”.<sup>1</sup>

That consultation process has now ended. As soon as recommendations have been made, we ask that action be taken without further delay. We have seen no indication that devolution is about to be restored in Northern Ireland. Indeed, one MLA recently told us that she had no hope of an Executive being restored this year. This is, of course, hugely disappointing but there must be a degree of realism about this in your Department. If there is no Northern Ireland Executive or Assembly in place, then legislation necessary to implement those recommendations should be taken through Westminster as soon as possible.

Yours ever,  
Andrew

**Dr Andrew Murrison MP**  
Chair, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

<sup>1</sup> Northern Ireland Budget (Anticipation and Adjustments) (No. 2) Bill, 5 March