Forensic Science Regulator Bill

I recently wrote to the Leader of the House, asking whether the Government had any plans to prioritise the Forensic Science Regulator Bill in Government time. Please find enclosed our exchange.

The Bill was introduced as a Private Members Bill by Chris Green MP. The Second Reading of the Forensic Science Regulator Bill was scheduled for Friday 26 October. It was not debated that day as there were over 100 Bills ahead of it. Though the Second Reading of the Bill has been rescheduled for Friday 23 November, it faces the same problem; once again there are over 100 Bills to be debated before the Forensic Science Regulator Bill is due to be reached.

The Leader responded to my letter, noting that departments needed to give "a great deal of attention to their legislation priorities in this and upcoming sessions" and suggested pursuing the matter with "Home Office Ministers". I am therefore writing to ask how you will ensure that this important Bill receives sufficient Parliamentary time?

In the Response to the Committee's Biometrics strategy and forensic services Report, the Government was clear that it "strongly supports the introduction of the Forensic Science Regulator Bill and its aim to put the Regulator on a statutory footing". To date, however, this "strong support" has yet to be translated into making the Bill a legislative priority for the Home Office. I hope you can provide the Committee with details of how you plan to address this imbalance.

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair

19 November 2018