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Les Allamby  
Chief Commissioner  
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission  
39 North St  
Belfast BT1 1NA

13 November 2018

Dear Les,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 October 2018 regarding the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's power to take legal cases in its own name, following the June 2018 Supreme Court judgment<sup>1</sup>; and for forwarding on correspondence from the chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, Professor Dr Beate Rodolf, regarding the Commission's mandate.

Following consideration of these matters, I can now confirm that the Government will introduce legislation to address the Commission's 'own motion' standing under the Human Rights Act 1998, via its powers under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, at the earliest opportunity, before the end of 2019, to ensure it has the legal mandate to bring cases in its own name before the UK domestic courts.

The Government recognises the importance to the Commission retaining its 'A status' under the UN Paris Principles, and that its independent and effective mandate is needed for it to be able to operate most effectively as the national human rights institution for Northern Ireland.

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<sup>1</sup> In the matter of an application by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission for Judicial Review (Northern Ireland) [2018] UKSC 27.

Officials in my department will continue to engage with you and your Commission colleagues, and keep you updated as this matter progresses.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**RT HON KAREN BRADLEY MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**