

27<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about the British Bill of Rights.

Following a commitment in the Conservative Manifesto, the Government has announced its intention to bring forward proposals for a Bill of Rights to replace the Human Rights Act. The Bill will protect existing rights, which are an essential part of a modern, democratic society, and better protect against abuse of the system and misuse of human rights laws.

The Government view is that the Bill of Rights will reform and modernise the human rights framework in the UK and restore common sense to the application of human rights laws, which has been undermined by the damaging effects of the Human Rights Act.

You may find it interesting to know that the majority of the members of the independent Commission on a Bill of Rights, set up in 2011, agreed that there was a case for a Bill of Rights, not least to address the credibility and public ownership gaps that exist with the Human Rights Act. However, it was impossible to reach agreement on how to reform the human rights framework with our coalition partners during the last Government. Now is the right time to make changes and the Government has a mandate to do so.

Ministers are discussing the details of this and will be making further announcements in due course.

Thank you once again for contacting me.

Yours sincerely,



**Alok Sharma MP**