

The document "Making a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland" fails to reflect the wishes and concerns of the pro-Union people, and in its present form contains many provisions which are grossly offensive to them.

The input to the document lacks the breadth of support across the community which is essential if the eventual Bill is to be fair or even-handed, and is to effectively ensure the Human Rights of all of the people of Northern Ireland.

The consultation period, at this stage, is also totally inadequate and unrealistic for a Bill which will have an overriding influence on all aspects of future legislation in Northern Ireland.

In order to redress this situation and provide full inclusiveness, it is vital that the consultation period be extended to allow proper account and consideration to be taken of the views of the pro-Union people of Northern Ireland.

Under these circumstances the only way forward, which is in the interest of all of the people of Northern Ireland, is to extend the consultation period on this document to a least 2nd April 2002.

I formally request that you do so.