



Equality Hub

Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP
Minister for Women and Equalities
Secretary of State for Business and Trade
President of the Board of Trade
Old Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2BL

Peter Tatchell
Director, Peter Tatchell Foundation

Our reference: MC2024/00718

By email: simon@petertatchellfoundation.org

26 February 2024

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 9 January, regarding engagement with LGBT organisations on related policy issues.

It will not surprise you that I do not agree with your overall observation regarding my engagement with stakeholders. I am more than confident that between the Minister for Equalities, the Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP, and me, supported by our officials, we have ample opportunity to engage with and hear from a wide range of organisations interested in LGBT rights. On that basis and given the considerable pressures on my diary, I will not be taking up your offer to facilitate a roundtable meeting.

More generally, I can perhaps usefully offer my own observation: that some organisations advocating for LGBT equality might consider the wider impact of the critiques of this Government that they so readily provide. Of course, everyone has the right to voice their concerns and objections, but the manner in which this Government is constantly attacked does not help create an environment for conducive dialogue.

In recent years I believe the constant efforts to undermine our work have seen us reach a place where criticism is given without any valuable insight, which I know the Minister for Equalities and I always remain open to.

Despite this, I know that there are of course organisations that offer constructive and collaborative approaches to working with Government, and with which we continue to maintain a good working relationship.

Finally, turning to matters of policy and delivery, this Government continues to take meaningful steps to advance opportunity for all LGBT people in the UK and beyond. The UK has a proud history of LGBT rights, and one of the world's most comprehensive and robust legislative protection frameworks for LGBT people. We have already taken great strides, including extending same-sex marriage to Northern Ireland, modernising the

process of applying for a Gender Recognition Certificate and making it more affordable to do so. Last summer, the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, issued an official apology to veterans affected by the historic ban on LGBT military personnel in the House of Commons. Additionally, on the conversion practices ban, as I made clear in Parliament before Christmas, we remain committed to publishing a draft Bill setting out our proposals for pre-legislative scrutiny.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Equalities Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP and to Lord Herbert of South Downs, the UK Special Envoy on LGBT Rights.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kemi Badenoch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RT HON KEMI BADENOCH MP
Minister for Women and Equalities, Secretary of State for Business and Trade and
President of the Board of Trade