

The Rt Hon the Baroness Royall of Blaisdon



The Leader of the House of Lords

Baroness Warsi
Baroness Morris
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC
Baroness Northover
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

12 January 2010

Dear Colleagues

The Government tabled a number of amendments today and I thought it would be helpful to clarify the details of these amendments.

I attach an explanation of each of these amendments and am copying this letter to members who spoke at Second Reading or during Committee Day 1 of the Equality Bill. At the time of writing, the amendments have not been allocated numbers, so the explanation relies on the description.

As you know, I welcome any questions from colleagues and would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Lords' Ministerial Colleagues will be available at the following times for anyone who wishes to discuss these or any other amendments as we move through the Committee stages.

Wednesday 13 January at 14.00-15.00
Tuesday 19 January at 13.30-14.30
Monday 25 January at 13.30-14.30
Wednesday 27 January at 14.00-15.00

I am placing a copy of this letter and attachment in the House Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Royall'.

JAN ROYALL

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**EQUALITY BILL: GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS FOR LORDS
COMMITTEE, TABLED 12 JANUARY**

Clause 20

This amendment makes explicit that a disabled person cannot be required to pay for the costs incurred by a duty holder in making reasonable adjustments. In the existing legislation there is reference to not passing on costs of making reasonable adjustments in services and functions in the context of a different justification regime than applies in the Bill. The Bill does not provide for costs to be passed on and this amendment makes this explicit.

Schedule 3, para 32

This amendment responds to the report of the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee which recommended that the power in paragraph 32 (to omit or reduce the scope of exceptions from the prohibition on discrimination regarding provision of services or public functions) should be removed in respect of:

- the functions of Parliament;
- the preparation, making, consideration or approval of legislation;
- judicial functions including in relation to decisions to bring/consider criminal proceedings.

That is what this amendment does.