

The Rt Hon the Baroness Royall of Blaisdon



The Leader of the House of Lords

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Dear Sajeeda and Anthony

Equality Bill: Government amendments for Third Reading stage

The Government tabled a number of amendments on 10th March and I thought it would be helpful to clarify the details of these amendments.

I attach an explanation of each of these amendments.

As you know, I welcome any questions from colleagues and Members are encouraged to contact my office if you would like to discuss these amendments.

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

Yours ever

JAN ROYALL

EQUALITY BILL
GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS FOR THIRD READING

Clause 20

This amendment exemplifies, for the second requirement of the reasonable adjustment duty at clause 20(4), steps which might be taken to address substantial disadvantage caused by a physical feature. It imports some familiar concepts from the Disability Discrimination Act.

Clause 105

In consequence of the amendments to clause 104 (Selection of candidates) introducing a new subsection (3)(c) which is "subject to subsection (7)", a provision that will be repealed at the end of 2030 unless an order is made substituting a later time, this amendment would ensure that any repeal of clause 104(7) would also repeal the words "subject to subsection (7)" that appear in clause 104(3)(c). The repeal of section 104(7) at the end of 2030 or subsequently would not then leave any extraneous references.

Schedule 15

This amendment introduces consistency between Schedule 15 (Associations: reasonable adjustments) and Schedule 2 (Services and public functions: reasonable adjustments) concerning the second requirement of the reasonable adjustment duty. It makes clear that an association should consider a reasonable alternative method of affording access to a benefit, facility or service etc. where the substantial disadvantage caused by a physical feature cannot be avoided reasonably.

Schedule 28

In consequence of the addition of an entry for "substantial" to clause 212(1) (General interpretation), this amendment would add an entry to the index in Schedule 28 (Index of defined expressions) for "substantial".