

Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill [HL]

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN GRAND COMMITTEE

Clause 6

BARONESS RITCHIE OF DOWNPATRICK

Clause 6, page 12, line 1, at end insert –

“(4A) In the case of the absence of compliance by a Northern Ireland Minister or Northern Ireland department on identity and language functions the Secretary of State must act in the cases listed under subsection (4B).

(4B) The Secretary of State must act as follows –

- (a) in the case of the First Minister and deputy First Minister not acting jointly to appoint an Irish Language Commissioner as laid out in section 78J of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (as inserted by section 2) within 30 days of the legislation coming into force or a vacancy arising, the Secretary of State must act to appoint an Irish Language Commissioner within 30 subsequent days;
- (b) in the case of the First Minister and deputy First Minister not approving best practice standards, submitted under section 78L of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (as inserted by section 2) within 30 days, the Secretary of State must act before 30 subsequent days elapse to approve the best practice standards submitted by the Irish Language Commissioner with or without modifications.”

Member's explanatory statement

These step-in powers for the Secretary of State include a timescale whereby a decision by him or her must be taken. With this amendment the Secretary of State must act within 30 days of progress being restrained.

BARONESS RITCHIE OF DOWNPATRICK

Clause 6, page 12, line 13, at end insert –

“(c) a function conferred by or under section 28D of the Northern Ireland Act 1998;”

Member's explanatory statement

Clause 6 - *continued*

This amendment seeks to permit the Secretary of State to intervene, reflecting the commitment given in New Decade New Approach.

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