



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

Minister of State

Hon. Alden McLaughlin, MBE, JP, MLA
Premier of the Cayman Islands
Office of the Premier
Cayman Islands
KY1-9000

10 November 2019

Alden

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

I am writing to provide an update on plans to reform the Cayman Islands Constitution. I am pleased to confirm that I have been able to secure agreement within the UK Government to a final package of proposals that accepts the majority of your suggestions (Order in Council at Annex A). Of your counter proposals, we have been able to accept your request for a provision in the Constitution that the UK will consult the Cayman Islands on any legislation affecting them and a narrower definition of the Governors duty to consult Cabinet. I am sure that you will agree that this is a positive development, not just for the future relationship between the UK and the Cayman Islands, but also for the future governance of the Cayman Islands.

I have welcomed the fact that our bilateral discussions to date have included representatives from both the Government and Opposition in the Cayman Islands. As you know, the next step in agreeing this package is to obtain the broadest possible cross Party and public support for these reforms. Generally, the policy of the UK Government has been to require a referendum, unless the reforms are declared by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to be minor or uncontroversial. However, I would also note that the UK Government's position on this matter is reserved, as there may be circumstances where a referendum may not be possible or appropriate.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could outline how you intend to seek the broadest possible support for the reforms to the Constitution, both within the Legislative Assembly and the wider public. If the decision was not to hold a referendum, it would be helpful if you could explain the case for not doing so.

I would be grateful for your views on the final package of constitutional reform proposals. Subject to the points made above, if you agree to the package the FAC will be notified and the draft Order in Council will be sent to the Privy Council for the order to be made.

You will have also seen that a General Election has now been called and under the rules of Purdah, I will not be able to make any new decisions that bind any future Government.

Nous Sincerely
Tariq

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON
Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN
Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict