



Carole Ewart,
o/b Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland (CFoIS)

By email

MoJ ref: ADR93175

22 December 2021

Dear Members of the CFoIS,

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (ICESCR)

Thank you for your letter of 8 December 2021 concerning the delay to the UK's 7th Periodic Report under the ICESCR.

The Government takes its obligations under the various UN treaties it has ratified, including the ICESCR, extremely seriously and endeavours to report according to the pre-set timetables.

As you have rightly noted, issues such as the Covid-19 pandemic have significantly affected pre-set timescales not just in relation to the Government's ability to provide the report to the Committee by 30 June 2021 but also on the Committee's own scheduling. As you can appreciate, these are unprecedented times, the circumstances of which were acknowledged during discussions between the UK Mission in Geneva and the Secretariat of the UN Committee where a revised timetable for the UK to submit its report was agreed. Officials in the Ministry of Justice are working on this at present, having conducted an engagement exercise with civil society groups, and I am grateful for your organisations' input in this process.

I hope you will be reassured that the Government now aims to submit and publish its report in early 2022.

Kind regards,

LORD (DAVID) WOLFSON
OF TREDEGAR, QC