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Department for
Commonities

From: Colum Boyle
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Seán MacBraidigh
Assistant Director
Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR)

Via email: sean@pprproject.org

Dear Mr MacBraidigh

Thank you for your email dated 9 May 2023 asking for an update on the progress made to introduce a human rights checklist for social security decision making.

I wish to confirm the Department's commitment to adhere to the Human Rights Act and I can assure you that Human Rights is embedded in everything we do.

Since your last correspondence a comprehensive review of the checklist proposed by PPR against departmental processes has been completed. I can advise that the Department considers that the approach outlined within the proposed checklist is already encompassed within the Department's decision-making processes and the underpinning legislation. In many cases, the Department's decision-making procedures go beyond the proposed checklist.

I can also assure you that the Department will continue to engage with the Chief Executive of NI Human Rights Commission in all Human Rights matters.

I hope you find the above useful.

Yours sincerely

Colum Boyle
Permanent Secretary