



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Department
for International
Development

5 August 2020

Martyn Roper
Governor of the Cayman Islands
Governor's Office,
Suite 101, 103 Elgin Avenue,
Government Administration Building,
Grand Cayman,
Cayman Islands

Dear Martyn,

Thank you for advising me of the decision on 29 July by the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly to reject the Domestic Partnership Bill.

This decision has frustrated the efforts of the Cayman Islands Government to comply with the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal ruling on 7 November 2019 and its declaration that the respondents "are entitled, expeditiously, to legal protection in the Cayman Islands, which is functionally equivalent to marriage."

After giving this matter due consideration, I approve, on behalf of the Secretary of State, the use of your powers under section 81 of the Cayman Islands Constitution to: (i) publish in a Government Notice bills on domestic partnerships which is in compliance with the Court of Appeal's judgment of 7 November 2019; and (ii) assent to the bills on behalf of Her Majesty 21 days after its publication. As well as serving as Secretary of State approval under section 81 of the Cayman Islands Constitution, please treat this letter as instructions addressed to you on behalf of Her Majesty (as referred to in section 31(2) of the Cayman Islands Constitution) to act in the manner described above.

BARONESS SUGG

Minister for Sustainable Development and the Overseas Territories