

The Commission on a Bill of Rights ('Commission') was launched in March 2011.

The stated terms of reference of the Commission are to:

- investigate the creation of a UK Bill of Rights that incorporates and builds on all our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, ensures that these rights continue to be enshrined in UK law, and protects and extend[s] our liberties.
- Examine the operation and implementation of these obligations, and consider ways to promote a better understanding of the true scope of these obligations and liberties.
- Provide interim advice to the Government on the ongoing Interlaken process to reform the Strasbourg court ahead of and following the UK's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe.
- To consult, including with the public, judiciary and devolved administrations and legislatures, and aim to report no later than by the end of 2012.¹

At René Cassin, we are concerned about the lack of mention of the Human Rights Act (HRA) in the Commission's Terms of Reference. The commitment to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is welcome but it and the HRA are different legal instruments. A commitment to the ECHR is not the same as a commitment to the way in which these rights are made enforceable in the UK under the HRA.

Interesting links:

- <http://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2011/08/05/do-we-need-a-uk-bill-of-rights/>
- <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200708/jtselect/jtrights/165/165i.pdf>

¹ These terms of reference are taken from the Justice site: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/cbr/index.htm>