

Children and Families Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN GRAND COMMITTEE

After Clause 78

BARONESS MASSEY OF DARWEN

Insert the following new Clause –

“Independence of the Children’s Commissioner

In Schedule 1 to the Children Act 2004, in paragraph 1 (status) after sub-paragraph (2) insert –

- “(3) The Secretary of State shall not undermine the Children’s Commissioner’s independence and shall ensure that the Children’s Commissioner is under as few constraints as reasonably possible in determining –
- (a) the Commissioner’s activities,
 - (b) the Commissioner’s timetables, and
 - (c) the Commissioner’s priorities.”.

Schedule 5

BARONESS MASSEY OF DARWEN

Page 188, line 9, at end insert –

“(za) after sub-paragraph (1) insert –

- “(1A) The Secretary of State shall appoint an individual only if the Secretary of State reasonably considers the individual –
- (a) has adequate experience and knowledge relating to children’s rights, including the involvement of children in decision-making; and
 - (b) is able and willing to act independently of Government.”.

Schedule 5 – *continued*

Page 188, line 14, at end insert –

“(d) after sub-paragraph (7) insert –

“(8) The Secretary of State shall have due regard to the views of any parliamentary committee which has published a view on a proposed appointment or removal from office of the Children’s Commissioner.”.”

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