



The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

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Our reference MC/26/250

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 15 April concerning your recommendation not to hold an Electoral Canvass in Northern Ireland in 2026.

Thank you for setting out your reasoning for this decision so clearly. I can confirm that I am content with your decision and agree with the reasoning in your letter. As you know, the Government plans to reform the canvass system in Northern Ireland as part of the Representation of the People Bill, which is currently before Parliament.

I want to thank you in advance for your input and cooperation with my officials on those reforms, which I hope will modernise and ensure the Northern Ireland canvass system is fit for purpose.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON HILARY BENN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND