



Department  
for Education

Sir Alan Meale  
Chair, Trade Union Bill Public Bill Committee  
House of Commons  
SW1A 0AA



Department  
for Business  
Innovation & Skills

**Nick Boles MP**  
Minister of State for Skills

1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [enquiries@bis.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@bis.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/bis](http://www.gov.uk/bis)

21 October 2015

Dear Sir Alan,

### **Trade Union Bill – Government Amendments**

I am writing to draw your attention to some Government amendments which have been tabled to the Trade Union Bill. I attach a copy of these amendments.

#### **Prohibition on deduction of union subscriptions from wages in public sector (“check off”)**

This amendment would prohibit public sector employers prescribed by regulations from deducting trade union subscriptions from workers’ wages and sending these to the unions concerned, a service called ‘check off’.

#### **Schedule 4 technical amendment**

Amendment 111 is a minor and technical amendment to correct a drafting error (the inadvertent removal of an important cross reference to section 24B of the 1992 Act).

When section 43 of the Transparency Act Transparency [etc] Act 2014 commences next year it will provide a right of appeal against decisions made by the Certification Officer under section 24B and 24C of the 1992 Act (24B and 24C are inserted by the 2014 Act). The amendment in paragraph 18(4) of Schedule 4 to the Bill amends section 43 of the 2014 Act so that it will additionally operate to provide a right of appeal against a decision of the Certification Officer under paragraph 5 of new Schedule A3 (investigatory powers) contained in Schedule 1 to the Bill. The amendment also removes the references to section 24B and 24C. The removal of the reference to 24C is correct because those powers are being replicated and superseded by the provisions in this Bill. However section 24B is not being changed

by this Bill and should still be referenced. The amendment is necessary to correct that error.

I am copying this letter to Angela Eagle, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and to members of the Public Bill Committee.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Boles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nick" and the last name "Boles" clearly distinguishable.

**NICK BOLES MP**