

Cllr Carl Cashman

Leader of the Opposition, Liverpool City Council



The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
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(via email)

8th April 2025

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you about concerns that have been raised with me about the progress on the Hillsborough Law, and to seek urgent assurances from you and the government on two critical matters: the timeline for the bill and the strength of the proposed duty of candour.

The Hillsborough Law represents not only a vital step toward justice for the families affected by the disaster, but also a broader commitment to institutional transparency and accountability across public bodies.

Last September, the Prime Minister gave a commitment that the Hillsborough law would be introduced in Parliament before we reached the 36th anniversary on April 15th. However, it now seems clear that this will not happen.

For many of the campaigners and families, this is not just a delay but another broken promise from politicians in Westminster – they have been let down again and again. The rumours that the duty of candour, the very core of the Hillsborough Law, may also be watered down by limiting who it applies too worsens the news of the delay even more.

I therefore urge you to:

1. **Give a clear and public reassurance that the statutory duty of candour will not be weakened** and will apply robustly to all public bodies and officials involved in major incidents and investigations.
2. **Commit to bringing a bill forward after the Easter Recess and allocating ample and proper parliamentary time**, to ensure that it is not rushed through without the scrutiny and debate it rightly deserves.

This is about rebuilding trust and accountability in our public institutions – that is something that I care deeply about not just as a scouser but as a democrat. I know you understand the need for this law, and I don't question your motives, but the families and campaigners have waited long enough and further delay is unacceptable.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Carl Cashman