



Ministry
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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THE RT HON BARONESS GOLDIE DL
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

MSU/4/8/2/3/ap

5 February 2021

Dear David,

During the Second Reading of the Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill on 20 January 2021, you asked whether legislation of critical importance to the activities of our Armed Forces should be contained in one Armed Forces Act.

I have sympathy for your desire to ensure that the statute book is tidy and logical as this aids the transparency of our legislation as well as ease of use. However, the Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill applies to the wider civilian criminal justice system as well as the service justice system. It also contains measures that deal with civil law and derogation from the ECHR. Given that the Bill encompasses such wide-ranging matters, it is my view that it works better as a standalone Act.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

*Yours sincerely,
Annabel Su Looie*

BARONESS GOLDIE DL

The Lord Craig of Radley
House of Lords
London
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