



Ministry
of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FLOOR 5 ZONE B MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 020 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

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

MSU/4/8/2/3/ap

5 February 2021

Dear Peta,

During the Second Reading of the Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill on 20 January 2021, you asked a question about whether the definition of “overseas operations” as it applies throughout the Bill, includes operations beyond our territorial waters - for example, acts of piracy and the seizure of drugs and other contraband.

Clause 1(6) sets out that the measures in Part 1 of the Bill only apply to operations outside the British Islands where UK Armed Forces “are coming under attack or face the threat of attack or violent resistance”. I can confirm that overseas operations beyond our territorial waters would be covered by the Bill provided that they meet that criteria.

I do hope this response is helpful.

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

*Yours sincerely,
Annabel Su Goldie*

BARONESS GOLDIE DL

Baroness Buscombe
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW