



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 Lindsay,

During the Second Reading of the Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill on 20 January 2021, you asked a question on what legal advice the Government had received.

I would like to reassure you that the Government has taken all appropriate advice. You may be interested to note the legal issues that are covered in the Government's ECHR memorandum ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/918790/20200907-MOD\\_Analysis\\_and\\_Response-FINAL\\_accessible\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918790/20200907-MOD_Analysis_and_Response-FINAL_accessible_.pdf)) that accompanies this Bill.

I also hope that I can reassure you by reiterating what we have said publicly, that the Government considers the measures in the Bill to be consistent with all our international legal obligations, including those mentioned during the debate. This Bill does not undermine, in any way, the UK's continuing commitment to upholding those obligations.

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

*Yours sincerely,  
Annabel Su Gocine*

**BARONESS GOLDIE DL**

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