



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 Sayeeda,

During the Second Reading of the Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill on 20 January 2021, you asked a question about Clause 6, which sets out the definition of 'relevant offence', and in particular why it excludes those offences committed against a member of the regular or reserve forces (or British overseas territory force), a Crown Servant or defence contractor.

The exclusion in Clause 6(2) reflects our view that, in the course of their duties on overseas operations, we expect that our Service personnel will use violence / force against "opposition" forces. In this context, and in relation to allegations of offences more than 5 years ago, we believe that our personnel warrant the additional protection provided by the measures in Part 1 of the Bill. By contrast there is no context in which we would expect Service personnel to use violence/force against other (UK) Service personnel, Crown Servants or defence contractors, during an overseas operation. As a result, the justification for the additional protection provided by the measures in Part 1 is not considered to be appropriate in such cases.

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

*Yours sincerely,
Annabel Su Looie*

BARONESS GOLDIE DL

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