



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 Lord Anderson,

During the Second Reading of the Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Bill on 20 January 2021, you asked a question on the remit of the Henriques review, whether it extended to the independent element of the investigation, and to recommending any statutory changes that might be needed to reinforce the powers and independence of the Service Police.

The review by Sir Richard Henriques will consider options for strengthening internal investigation processes and skills, and will focus on setting the context for the future. The terms of reference for the Review have been provided recently in response to a Written Question and can be viewed here:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/HL12010>

We will leave it to Sir Richard to decide how best to fulfil the remit we have given him.

I can also assure you that key parts of the Service Justice System have been scrutinised by the UK courts (and by Strasbourg) and have been held to be compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights, both for investigations and prosecutions within the UK and abroad (where the civilian police do not have jurisdiction). The Service Police have been held by the courts to be structurally, and in practice, independent from the chain of command.

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

*Yours sincerely,
Annabel Su Looie*

Lord Anderson of Ipswich
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

BARONESS GOLDIE DL