

THE LORD COAKER
MINISTER FOR THE HOUSE OF LORDS

4.8.2.3

23 April 2025

Dear Baroness Ramsey,

**ARMED FORCES COMMISSIONER BILL: DPRRC REPORT – GOVERNMENT
RESPONSE**

I am writing to provide you with a response to the Seventeenth Report of the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee on the Armed Forces Commissioner I (“the Bill”). The Bill completed Lords’ Committee Stage on 24 March and is due to have its Report Stage on Wednesday 30 April.

I thank the Committee for its recommendation on the Bill, which the Government is accepting in full.

I have tabled a series of four amendments to the Bill in order to accept the Committee’s recommendation to change the regulation making power to define relevant family members contained in the Bill from the negative to the affirmative procedure.

The Government recognises that the establishment of the Armed Forces Commissioner represents the first time family members will have had such an avenue to raise concerns around welfare matters impacting themselves as well as those who serve. I believe it is important that Parliament should consider how this is defined and would encourage any of my noble Lords with an interest in this to consider the draft secondary legislation that we shared ahead of Committee Stage, and which has been made available in the Library of the House. My amendments, as proposed, would ensure there will a debate on the Government’s definition of a relevant family member when the secondary legislation is brought forward.

I thank the Committee again for its recommendation and look forward to the remaining stages in the Lords.

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

Yours sincerely,



THE LORD COAKER

The Baroness Ramsey of Wall Heath
Chair of the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW