



Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Rt Hon Robert Buckland MP

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London, SW1H

26 March 2020

Dear Robert,

Thank you for our meeting last week about the Overseas Operations Bill.

Although I appreciate that the Overseas Operations Bill was a key manifesto commitment for the Government, I feel that in the current context it would be inappropriate to proceed with the passage of the Bill.

Parliament's ability to scrutinise it would be greatly diminished, which would be unacceptable for legislation that relates to derogating from the ECHR and raises such major human rights questions. The Committee set out our concerns to you in our letter sent to the Secretary of State for Defence on 23 October 2019.

I therefore request that you delay proceeding with the Bill until such a time as Parliament can give it the attention it deserves.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP
Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights

Copied to

Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP

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