



Foreign, Commonwealth
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Rt Hon the Lord Goldsmith
Chair of the House of Lords International
Agreements Sub-Committee
House of Lords
London
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20 October 2020

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

CROUGHTON ANNEX

Thank you for your letter of 9 October in which you requested the Government disclose the documents relating to the Croughton Annex on immunity arrangements for US personnel and their families.

The Croughton arrangements are contained in diplomatic correspondence which, as you will know, is normally confidential. They were first concluded in 1995, and they were revised twice during your tenure as Attorney General, first in October 2001, and again in 2006. On none of those occasions did the Government of the day, including the one in which you served, see fit to disclose the arrangements to Parliament. None considered the Croughton arrangements covered by any aspect of the Ponsonby rule.

This Government has addressed the anomaly in the arrangements, an anomaly that had persisted since 1995. In July I updated Parliament on those changes by Written Ministerial Statement, which cover pre-waivers of immunity, and also shared them with the Dunn family, which you will recall was not done by the Government in 2001 and 2006.

In practice, you are therefore asking the present Government to undermine the understandings on which the Government in which you served revised and operated these arrangements.

I am copying this letter as yours to Tom Tugendhat MP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chris Shaw, Clerk to the Foreign Affairs Committee, Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP QC, Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, and Lucinda Maer, Clerk to the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP