

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd April 2021

Dear Constance,

RE: OVERSEAS OPERATIONS BILL - TORTURE

Thank you for your recent correspondence about torture and the *Overseas Operations Bill*; your comments upon which I have read with interest.

I consider the conduct of Armed Forces personnel serving overseas to be of the utmost importance. I am proud of the fact that the UK has some of the most committed and professional service personnel anywhere in the world, who not only adhere to the rule of law, but promote it through the conduct of their operations.

I am sure you will be delighted to hear that the Government has now tabled an amendment to the Bill which will specifically exclude offences related to torture from the measures in Part One. Although the Bill in its original form would not have prevented the prosecution of historical events where serious wrongdoing occurred, including torture, clearly concerns have been raised about these provisions. I therefore welcome that the Government has made this decision, which reaffirms the UK's ongoing commitment to upholding the rule of law in international conflict and the principle that torture should never be a part of war.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you, then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,
Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE