From the Chair, Rory Stewart MP

Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP,
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Floor 5, Zone D
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London SW1A 2HB

19 November 2014

Dear Michael,

In its Response to the Committee’s Report, *UK Armed Forces Personnel and the Legal Framework for Future Operations*, the Government said that the MoD was “actively considering whether there is a need for a new edition” of the UK Manual on the Law of Armed Conflict. I would be grateful to know the outcome of that consideration and the likely timetable for a significant update to the manual.

During our inquiry into the Situation in Iraq and Syria and the threat posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, it was brought to our attention that the UK had not ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict despite the previous Parliamentary scrutiny of the draft Cultural Property Protection (Armed Conflict) Bill in 2008. I would be grateful if you could set out the reasons why the Government has not ratified the Treaty.

I would be grateful if we could have your reply by Friday 19 December 2014.

CHAIR