Dear Rory,


The Development, Concepts and Doctrine Centre (DCDC) at the Defence Academy is responsible for the Joint Service Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict (JSP 383). In November 2014, the Director DCDC issued a directive for an independent review of JSP 383 by Mr John Grainger, who recently retired as Deputy Legal Advisor at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Mr Grainger accepted the terms of his appointment on 24 November and has started work. He will consult widely to take stock of the current Manual and to consider what further work may be required to ensure the Manual best meets the requirement. We expect Mr Grainger to provide his report to the Director DCDC by the end of April 2015. The tri-service legal branch at DCDC will support Mr Grainger in his comprehensive review.

The Department for Culture Media and Sport is responsible for the ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Government remains committed to protecting cultural heritage and has pledged to make every effort to facilitate the UK’s ratification of the Convention and its two Protocols. DCMS will introduce the Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill when parliamentary time allows. The convention and its protocols already inform the Armed Forces’ law of armed conflict doctrine and training policy, particularly with regard to respect for cultural property, precautions in attack and recognition of the protective emblem.

I hope this is helpful.

THE RT HON MICHAEL FALLON MP

Rory Stewart MP
Chairman, House of Commons Defence Committee
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