

THIS POLICY WAS ANNOUNCED BY MEANS OF A WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT (BELOW), AND IS NOT IN THE SAME FORMAT AS THE S19D AUTHORISATIONS.

## HOME DEPARTMENT

### Applications for Naturalisation by Members of the British Armed Forces

**The Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality (Mr Liam Byrne):**

On 11 October the Prime Minister announced that the policy on applications for naturalisation as a British citizen from members of the British armed forces was being reviewed, *Official Report*, column 298. I am pleased to announce that the review is now complete.

In most cases the Secretary of State will now be prepared to exercise his discretion under the British Nationality Act 1981 to disregard absences from the United Kingdom occasioned by service in the British armed forces when considering whether the applicant is residentially qualified for naturalisation.

Serving members of the Brigade of Gurkhas will continue to be treated in accordance with our long-standing agreement with the Government of Nepal. They will remain Nepalese citizens until they leave the brigade, after which they will be able to count their military service towards residential qualification for naturalisation in the same way as other members of the armed forces.

**HANSARD 22.11.06**

**COL 68WS**