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Committee Stage: Wednesday 6 March 2024

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# Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and International Committee of the Red Cross (Status) Bill

## (Committee Stage Decisions)

This document sets out the fate of each clause, schedule, amendment and new clause considered at committee stage.

A glossary with key terms can be found at the end of this document.

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### Clause agreed to.

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Dame Maria Miller

Agreed to 1

Clause 2, page 2, line 13, at end insert—

- “(e) provide for protected ICRC information to be exempt from any disclosure requirement imposed by—
  - (i) an order of a court or tribunal in proceedings other than criminal proceedings, or
  - (ii) a statutory provision or rule of law.
- (2) In subsection (1)(e), “protected ICRC information” means information—
  - (a) that is held by the government of the United Kingdom,
  - (b) that was obtained by the government from the ICRC, and
  - (c) that is confidential.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(c), information is “confidential” while the terms on which it was obtained require it to be held in confidence or while the circumstances in which it was obtained make it reasonable for the ICRC to expect that it will be so held.
- (4) An exemption conferred by virtue of subsection (1)(e) does not apply to information if the ICRC—
  - (a) has published it, or

- (b) has agreed to its disclosure for the purpose of the disclosure requirement in question.
- (5) Nothing in this section or in an Order in Council made under it affects the common law rules about the withholding of information on the grounds of public interest immunity."

**Member's explanatory statement**

This amendment allows for certain confidential information that the ICRC shares with the UK government to be exempted from legal disclosure requirements.

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**Clause, as amended, agreed to.**

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**Clause 3 agreed to.**

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**Dame Maria Miller**

**Withdrawn after debate 3**

Clause 4, page 2, line 24, at end insert—

- "(1A) Before laying before Parliament a draft of a statutory instrument containing an Order in Council under section 1, the Secretary of State must consult—
- (a) the Chair of the United Kingdom Branch, and
  - (b) the Secretary-General
- of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.
- (1B) Before laying before Parliament a draft of a statutory instrument containing an Order in Council under section 2, the Secretary of State must consult—
- (b) the President, and
  - (c) the Director-General
- of the International Committee of the Red Cross."

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**Dame Maria Miller**

**Agreed to 2**

Clause 4, page 2, line 27, leave out "or privilege" and insert ", privilege or exemption"

**Member's explanatory statement**

This amendment is consequential on Amendment 1 and ensures that an exemption conferred by an Order under clause 2(1)(e) can be subject to exceptions set out in the Order.

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**Dame Maria Miller**

**Not called 4**

Clause 4, page 2, line 37, at end insert—

- "(3) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament—

- (a) a draft of a statutory instrument containing an Order in Council under section 1, and
- (b) a draft of a statutory instrument containing an Order in Council under section 2
- within fourteen days of the passing of this Act.”

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**Clause, as amended, agreed to.**

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**Clauses 5 and 6 agreed to.**

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**Schedule agreed to.**

**Bill, as amended, to be reported.**

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### **Glossary**

**Agreed to:** agreed without a vote.

**Agreed to on division:** agreed following a vote.

**Negatived:** rejected without a vote.

**Negatived on division:** rejected following a vote.

**Not called:** debated in a group of amendments, but not put to a decision.

**Not moved:** not debated or put to a decision.

**Question proposed:** debate underway but not concluded.

**Withdrawn after debate:** moved and debated but then withdrawn, so not put to a decision.

**Not selected:** not chosen for debate by the Chair.