

**GURKHA ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION  
TUESDAY 19 MAY 2009  
GRIMOND ROOM, PORTCULLIS HOUSE  
12.30-14.00**

**Agenda**

- 1. Current legal position following Justice Blake judgement (September 2008)**
- 2. Numbers of ex-Gurkhas and dependents likely to settle in the UK (incl. definition of dependents)**
- 3. Cost and pace of applications**
- 4. Cost/benefit to the UK taxpayer (incl. take-up of benefits by Gurkhas)**
- 5. Gurkha pensions and the judgement by Justice Ouseley (2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008)**
- 6. Impact on economy of Nepal/ future of the Brigade of Gurkhas**

**Purpose of session**

Following oral evidence taken on 5 May 2009, the Committee has agreed to host a roundtable discussion in private between representatives of Gurkha groups and the Government on the issue of settlement rights for all Gurkhas.

The Committee will seek to clarify the figures being advanced on both sides in relation to the numbers of ex-Gurkhas and dependents who might take up settlement if offered, the costs and benefits to the UK of extending settlement, and Gurkha pensions. It will produce and publish a note summarising the different figures and issues of contention, to inform the Government's revision of its policy and guidance on Gurkha settlement.

The Committee previously held evidence sessions on 4 November 2008 and on 5 May 2009 on the issue of Gurkha settlement. It strongly recommended on both occasions that the Government extend settlement to all former Gurkhas.

**Attendees**

<b>Committee</b>	Keith Vaz MP (Chairman)
	Martin Salter MP
	Bob Russell MP
	Gwyn Prosser MP

	Gary Streeter MP
	David Winnick MP
<b>APPG on Gurkhas</b>	Ann Widdecombe MP (invited)
	Anne Snelgrove MP (invited)
<b>Government</b>	Jonathan Sedgwick, senior Home Office official
	John Pitt Brook, senior MOD official
	Margaret Gilmore, senior MOD official
<b>Gurkhas -participants</b>	Joanna Lumley (Gurkha Justice Campaign)
	Peter Carroll (Gurkha Justice Campaign)
	Martin Howe (Howe & Co, solicitors)
	Tim Heaver (N.C. Brothers & Co, solicitors)
	Gyanraj Rai (United British Gurkhas Ex-Servicemen's Association)
	Dhak Gurung (Reading Ex-British Gurkhas Association)
	Balkrishna Gurung (South London Nepalese Gurkha Association)
	Tikendradal Dewan (British Gurkha Welfare Society)
	Madan Kumar Gurung (previous witness)
<b>Gurkhas – observers</b>	Padam Bahadur Gurung (Gurkha Army Ex-Servicemen's Association)
	Laxmi Prasad Sharma (previous witness)
	Gyan Bahadur Sherchan (previous witness)