

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES AND IRELAND (IMMUNITIES AND
PRIVILEGES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2005**

2005 No.246

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. **Description**

This instrument is intended to afford partial relief from general rates to the offices and residences of the Representatives in London of the Gibraltar Government and the British Virgin Islands Government. Partial relief will continue to be afforded to the Representatives in London of the Falkland Islands Government and of the Cayman Islands Government.

This instrument also deletes references to Hong Kong, which is no longer part of the Commonwealth. The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office benefits from privileges under the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Act 1996.

3. **Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**

None

4. **Legislative Background**

This instrument is made under section 12 of the Consular Relations Act 1968, which allows consular privileges and immunities to be conferred on Commonwealth representatives in the United Kingdom.

5. **Extent**

The Order applies to the United Kingdom.

6. **European Convention on Human Rights**

Not applicable

7. **Policy Background**

This instrument brings the treatment of the Representatives in London of the Gibraltar Government and the British Virgin Islands Government respectively into line with treatment of the Representatives in London of the Falkland Islands

Government and of the Cayman Islands Government, both of whom are already accorded partial relief from general rates under the Order being amended.

8. **Impact**

A regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this Order as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

9. **Contact**

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