

ANDREW TYRIE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind QC MP
Chairman
Intelligence and Security Committee
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

6 April 2011

Dear Malcolm,

Re: Extraordinary Rendition

I am writing further to my letters of 19 and 27 July 2010, and your Committee's holding reply of 1 November 2010.

I hope that your Committee will examine how its predecessor failed to get to the truth on rendition, and that it will publish its subsequent work on rendition and intelligence guidance. I also hope that you will consider the proposals of the Wright Committee. Reform, beyond that proposed by the ISC itself, is needed to bolster public confidence in the ISC's work and in Parliament's ability to hold the intelligence services to account. These points are discussed in more detail below.

The ISC's Effectiveness

I have recently raised this with you in the lobby and in correspondence. For whatever reason the ISC failed to get to the truth on UK involvement in rendition. This was demonstrated on Diego Garcia, detainee handovers and Binyam Mohamed, among other issues. As we have discussed in the past, an early task of the new ISC should be to examine how this happened. Without a full examination public confidence will be difficult to restore.

Your predecessor's comments last year that "*we've never been denied any evidence from any of the agencies...*" and that he was "*confident*" that the ISC knew what was going on, following a High Court ruling to the contrary, did not help. His revelations during the ISC debate on 18 March 2010, that "*there are some within the Whitehall bureaucracy who, for reasons of their own, have not understood or have refused to accept that the independence of the ISC is sacrosanct*", and criticising the Government's delay in providing intelligence

