



# INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT

*Chairman: The Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, MP*



Andrew Tyrie MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

ISC 6.7/139

19 December 2013

*Dear Andrew,*

## **SUGGESTIONS TO REVIEW INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT**

Thank you for your letter dated 4 December 2013 concerning the Open Session of the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament (ISC), and the allegations that MI6 was complicit in the rendition and mistreatment of detainees.

With regard to the Open Session on 7 November 2013, you will be aware of the limitations on discussing classified matters in a public forum. However, I can assure you that the new powers afforded to the Committee by the Justice and Security Act 2013 enable us to be ever more rigorous in exercising our statutory oversight role, including by robustly challenging the heads of the intelligence Agencies during closed evidence sessions. This includes questioning of the Agencies on matters relating to rendition and detainees, including serious allegations such as you have raised.

With respect to the rendition of Libyan nationals, I am sure you will appreciate that it would be inappropriate for me to comment on a specific case whilst the police investigation is ongoing. However, I can assure you that, as I announced on 5 September 2011 and again on 18 January 2012, the Committee does indeed plan to investigate the Belhaj case, and also that of al-Saadi, once the police have concluded their work.

**MALCOLM RIFKIND**