



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

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Our reference: 86210

Andrew Tyrie MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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*Dear Andrew*

Thank you for your letter of 2 July to the Foreign Secretary concerning a letter you placed in the Financial Times about the terms of an inquiry into allegations of UK complicity in torture. I am replying as the Minister responsible for Counter Terrorism Issues.

As you are aware, on 6 July the Prime Minister announced to Parliament a series of measures designed to address these issues. These measures aim to draw a firm line under the issues of past and enable the security and intelligence services to focus on the crucial business of keeping the country safe.

In order to establish the facts behind these allegations, the Prime Minister has commissioned an independent judge-led inquiry into UK involvement with detainees in overseas counter-terrorism operations. The inquiry will consider whether, and if so to what extent, the UK government and its intelligence agencies were involved in improper treatment of detainees held by other countries in counter-terrorism operations overseas, or were aware of improper treatment of detainees in operations in which the UK was involved. As the Prime Minister explained in Parliament, the inquiry will be able to look at issues surrounding extraordinary rendition and Diego Garcia.

I hope this is useful.

*Warm regards*

*Ali*

ALISTAIR BURT