

ANDREW TYRIE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon William Hague MP
Secretary of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 0AA

1st May 2012

Dear William,

I write with reference to recent press reports claiming that officers of MI6 presented evidence to the former Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, allegedly demonstrating that he had approved the rendition of a terrorist suspect to Libya.

These reports are attributed to "well-placed sources". The context suggests that these sources may well be from within MI6. If so, this would represent staff from the intelligence agencies briefing the press. Such a briefing would be in breach of the Official Secrets Act; as you know, all MI6 employees are required to sign an acknowledgment of their obligations under the Act. I presume that any such briefing would also contravene the contracts of employment of MI6 staff and the guidance of the MI6 staff handbook, although neither of these is publicly available. As the Minister to whom MI6 reports, you will no doubt wish to establish whether such a briefing took place and, if so, take the appropriate disciplinary action.

Should such a briefing have taken place, it sits oddly with the government's current position that sensitive intelligence matters require the protection of expanded Closed Material Proceedings in civil cases. I trust that you and the Justice Secretary will consider the implications of the underlying allegations of British involvement in rendition to Libya for the government's current proposals.



I will be placing a copy of this letter in the public domain.

Yours in,

Andrew

ANDREW TYRIE