



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Peter Gibson  
The Detainee Inquiry  
35 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BQ

6 June 2011

*Dear Sir Peter,*

**Re: Provision of Information to the Inquiry**

Your letter of 13 April 2011 makes clear that you expect government agencies to provide you with the information you need. A more proactive approach will be required in order to get to the truth on rendition.

It is possible that the government will provide you with all relevant information available to them, but, even if they do, you would be unlikely to have the information required to produce a full and comprehensive report. This is because you need also to look at information not held by the UK government, nor offered to you by NGOs and others.

The shortcomings of a passive approach can be readily illustrated. For example, in order to be confident that you have got to the truth on Diego Garcia you will need access to information which may be stored only by foreign organisations.<sup>i</sup> Another example would be circuit flights, that is, flights on the way to or from a rendition but without a detainee onboard.<sup>ii</sup> On these, you will want to ask those who may have such information, such as *Eurocontrol* or the US administration.

In some cases you could either request the information directly yourself or ask the UK government to make the relevant request. Both would be consistent with the Prime Minister's letter to you of 6 July 2010, which did not preclude requests for evidence from foreign officials.<sup>iii</sup>

