

The Detainee Inquiry

35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ
Telephone: 020 7276 5544

From the Chairman of the Inquiry

26 May 2011

Andrew Tyrie MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Tyrie,

DETAINEE INQUIRY – MILITARY DETENTION OPERATIONS AND RENDITION

Thank you for your further letter of 10 May and for informing me that you intended to put our correspondence on the above subject into the public domain. It is regrettable that this resulted in a misunderstanding by some newspapers which have reported that this Inquiry would not be looking into the issue of rendition at all. However we have since written to them to correct this. As you know, we certainly do intend to look into rendition, including UK forces' awareness of, or involvement in, any cases of rendition from one country to another. We expect to receive from MOD any relevant evidence it holds on this subject.

I am sorry that you are disappointed at the Inquiry Panel's decision not to look at the broader issue of military detention operations, but after considering your letter we remain of the view, as I set out in my letter of 13 April, that to do so would be to repeat other inquiries and ongoing work being done in the MOD. It would also not be consistent with the remit set by the Prime Minister for this Inquiry. I note your concerns about the MOD's current separate arrangements but that is a matter for you to resolve with the Secretary of State for Defence and his officials.

I am confident that the Detainee Inquiry will constitute a thorough examination of whether UK officials and Ministers were aware of or involved in the mistreatment and/or rendition of detainees, and what they knew of other countries' practices in this area.

I regret that you cannot join us at the seminar on 8 June.

Yours sincerely,



PETER GIBSON