

4 February 2011

Our reference: MIN/6682/2010

Andrew Tyrie MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

*Dear Andrew,*

Thank you for your letter of 27 October to the Foreign Secretary about rendition. I am replying as the Minister responsible for counter terrorism issues. I apologise for the delay in replying. \*

I understand you recently met the Detainee Inquiry Panel as part of their preparatory work. I hope this will have helped answer your questions regarding the scope and remit of the Inquiry.

I would also like to reassure you that assurances the Foreign Secretary gave to the Foreign Affairs Committee are consistent with the Prime Minister's statements in the House on 6 July specifically regarding the issues of Diego Garcia and rendition flights.

The focus of the Detainee Inquiry will be on whether, and if so to what extent, the British Government and its security and intelligence agencies were implicated 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, in the aftermath of 11 September 2001. The Prime Minister made clear, however, in responding to your question during the debate in the House of Commons on detainees on 6 July that the Inquiry will be free to look at issues such as allegations of UK complicity in extraordinary rendition.

As you may be aware following your recent meeting with the Panel, the precise Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are yet to be finalised. The Panel may wish to consider the issue of rendition insofar as it fits within the parameters of its work, as set out in the Prime Minister's 6 July letter to Sir Peter Gibson. However, I am not in a position to comment further on this, pending final agreement of the Terms of Reference between the Panel and the Government.

*Warm regards  
Aki*

ALISTAIR BURT

*It happens to give you an explanation  
when we meet. Sorry.*