



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition

Minutes for the Registration Meeting 2015

Date: Thursday 26 November 2015
Location: Room 232, Norman Shaw North
Time: 9am

Present:

Andrew Tyrie MP
Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts
Lord Young of Graffham
Paul Flynn MP
Victoria Prentis MP

Edward Smith (Co-ordinator)

Formal Business:

1. Election of officers

The following officers were elected to the group:

- i. Andrew Tyrie (Chairman)
- ii. Lord Hodgson (Treasurer)
- iii. Lord Tyler of Linkinhorne (Vice Chair) – election *in absentia*
- iv. Kelvin Hopkins MP (Vice Chair) – election *in absentia*

2. Financial Accounts

Lord Hodgson presented the income and expenditure records for the year 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015.

Other Business:

3. Overview of previous year's activities

- **FOI cases:** Several developments in FOI cases in the US and UK.
- **Legal Opinion and PQs** – Challenge the notion that a judge-led inquiry must necessarily await the conclusion of Operation Lydd.
- **Letter to ISC Chairman** – Responding to the ISC statement on its work priorities on 29th October 2015.
- **Newspaper Article on FOI/ISC** – Outline the developments of the Upper Tribunal Case. Why FOI has failed as a tool to discover information about rendition.
- **Fundraising:** APPG needs to raise more money. We will urgently be carrying out a fundraising drive. This was delayed by the sudden departure of the previous coordinator. New funding opportunities are being investigated from, among others, the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust.
- **Website:** Updated weekly, with documents, letters and FOI documentation uploaded. Documents received from the State Department will be uploaded onto the APPG website this week.

4. Future activities

- Continue FOI litigation in the US.
- Fundraising drive for the APPG.
- Obtain a new legal opinion on the feasibility of holding the ISC rendition investigation at the same time as the police investigation.
- APPGER involvement with Freedom of Information Commission.
- Possible investigation – following AT's letter to PM – into the UK's so-called 'targeted killing' policy. ISC investigation into the drone strikes on 24th August in Syria.
- Investigation of allegations that detainees were held at a 'black site' on Diego Garcia with cooperation of the UK – particularly important with DG renewal in 2016.
- Investigation of revelations of rendition and torture following the release of Shaker Aamer.

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