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Andrew Tyrie Esq MP
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Dear Andrew

Thank you for your letter of 2 April to Alex Salmond, which you sent in your capacity as Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition.

Regarding your opening comments, I fear something may have been lost in translation. I have not announced a review of rendition flights through Scottish Airports. I have however told the Foreign Secretary that I am deeply concerned that his recent announcement about use of Diego Garcia for rendition flights has undermined public confidence about the validity of earlier assurances that there was no evidence that such flights had landed in the UK, including Scotland.

I have also told him that we need to establish as a matter of urgency whether Scottish airports have indeed been used for rendition flights, and if they have, for there to be an assurance from the UK Government that this will never happen again. Furthermore, I have asked him to ensure that the list which he has asked his officials to compile of instances where the UK Government has been alerted to concerns regarding rendition flights includes Scottish airports.

I am of course aware of the various reports you refer to in your letter. As you will know, following the meeting I had with civil liberty groups last August, copies of reports compiled by Amnesty, Liberty and Reprieve were passed to Strathclyde Police to consider whether there is any evidence to justify criminal proceedings. I understand that this is still under consideration.



I am copying your letter and this reply to the Lord Advocate and to Strathclyde Police. I note your letter has already been placed in the public domain.

Regards
Kenny

KENNY MACASKILL