



**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**

Press release – 28 June 2019

One year since the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) issued a damning report on detainee mistreatment and rendition, members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Extraordinary Rendition have called on the Prime Minister to deliver on the commitment to a judge-led inquiry and to address other urgent concerns.

Ken Clarke, Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition, said: “It is a year since the ISC report was published. That report established that involvement in rendition was far more wide-ranging than previously believed, and highlighted serious flaws in policy and guidance. But access to key witnesses was blocked and the Committee concluded that, within its powers and remit, it could take matters no further.

At the time, the government committed to respond within 60 days and to consider seriously the case for a renewed judge-led inquiry. After 147 days, it slipped out an evasive response that failed to address the question of a new Inquiry. And now, a year on, we are still waiting.

Concerns remain as to the guidance issued to our intelligence services, armed forces and others regarding cooperation with other countries’ security services when this might facilitate torture, mistreatment or rendition. The Prime Minister asked the Investigatory Powers Commissioner to review the guidance, and he recently submitted his recommendations. We need to see the publication of new and significantly reformed Guidance.

That is why members of the APPG from different parties have written to the Prime Minister urging that new Guidance be published and that the commitment of a previous administration to a judge-led inquiry be honoured. The Inquiry must finally get to the bottom of our country’s involvement in rendition and torture, including questions of ministerial involvement and approval, and we must establish a firm footing on which our intelligence services can operate in future. The wait has already been far too long.”

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Note to editors

- Kenneth Clarke is the chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition (APPG), a cross-party group of MPs and Peers that was founded in 2005. It aims to establish the facts about the scope and scale of UK involvement in rendition, and to reduce the likelihood of recurrence
- Today's letter to the Prime Minister was signed by Ken Clarke and some twenty other members of the APPG
- The Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) released two reports on 28 June 2018: *Detainee Mistreatment and Rendition: 2001-2010* and *Detainee Mistreatment and Rendition: Current Issues*, revealing much greater UK involvement in detainee mistreatment and rendition than was previously known. This included some 70 cases of UK involvement in rendition, 232 cases in which UK personnel continued to supply questions or intelligence to liaison services after they knew or suspected mistreatment, and 198 cases where UK personnel received intelligence from liaison services which had been obtained from detainees who they knew had been mistreated
- On 2 July 2018, in response to an urgent question by Ken Clarke, the Minister for Europe and the Americas (Sir Alan Duncan) stated that the Government would give "careful consideration" to calls for a judge-led inquiry and update the House within 60 days of publication of the reports. On 22 November 2018 (147 days after the release of the reports), the government released its [response](#), but failed to make any announcement as to a judge led inquiry.
- A judicial inquiry, headed by Sir Peter Gibson, was set up in 2010 to look into issues of rendition and mistreatment of detainees but was suspended in 2012 because of new police investigations into British involvement in renditions to Libya, including of Abdul-Hakim Belhaj and Fatima Boudchar. These police investigations concluded in 2016, with the CPS declining to bring any charges; nonetheless, the British Government apologised to Mr Belhaj and Mrs Boudchar on 10 May 2018 for the UK's role in their 2004 abduction, torture, and rendition to Libya. At the time of the suspension of the Gibson Inquiry, the government stated that there would be a judge-led inquiry after criminal investigations were complete

- The *Consolidated Guidance to Intelligence Officers and Service Personnel on the Detention and Interviewing of Detainees Overseas, and on the Passing and Receipt of Intelligence Relating to Detainees* ('The Consolidated Guidance') was first published by the then Prime Minister David Cameron in 2010

- The APPG welcomed the publication of the Guidance but raised concerns over major flaws within it. At the time of publication, Andrew (now Lord) Tyrie wrote to the Prime Minister setting out these concerns. Ken Clarke wrote to Prime Minister Theresa May in similar terms in 2018

- The ISC's second report of June 2018: *Detainee Mistreatment and Rendition: Current Issues* drew attention to weaknesses in the Guidance and recommended that it be reviewed. The Prime Minister asked the Investigatory Powers Commissioner, Sir Adrian Fulford, to carry out the review

- The APPG participated actively in the Review. Its submission in October 2018 can be found at:
<https://www.extraordinaryrendition.org/component/jdownloads/send/2-all-other-documents/381-appg-response-to-consolidated-guidance-consultation-october-2018.html>

- On 20 May, in response to an Urgent Question by Rt Hon David Davis MP regarding Ministry of Defence guidelines that appear to give ministers discretion over whether to approve information sharing that could be linked to torture, the Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt indicated that the government's response to the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's report could be expected within "a matter of weeks"

- Sir Adrian Fulford submitted his Review to the Prime Minister on 14 June 2019