



All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition  
House of Commons

**Press release: Immediate, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**The DC Circuit Court in the United States has ruled in favour of the APPG, concluding that Andrew Tyrie MP, American lawyer Joe Cyr and the APPG are not representatives of the UK Government.**

Andrew Tyrie MP said: “Six years ago I first requested information on rendition from the US intelligence agencies. This is another step towards establishing the maximum level of disclosure of UK involvement in rendition whilst keeping us safe.”

“It’s been nearly a decade since I first started asking questions about Britain’s involvement and we still don’t know the answers. For closure on rendition we need disclosure. One way or another, the truth will eventually come out. It is in the British national interest and in the interest of the security services, as well as of those who may have been maltreated, that we uncover the truth sooner rather than later. Only then can we draw a line under it and move forward.”

Ends.

## Notes to Editors

In November 2008, Andrew Tyrie, the APPG, and American lawyer Joe Cyr filed Freedom of Information requests seeking various records from the CIA and other intelligence agencies about British involvement in extraordinary rendition. The agencies denied these requests, claiming that the requesters all qualified as “representatives” of the British government.

Under the US Freedom of Information Act, American intelligence agencies are prohibited from releasing records to foreign government entities or to their ‘representatives.’

In December 2009, the APPG sued to compel disclosure. They argued that in order to qualify as a “representative” of a foreign government entity, the FOIA requester must be an agent of that entity, and because they had no authority to file these requests on behalf of the British government, the intelligence agencies could not invoke the Foreign Government Entity Exception. The District Court, however, found that the Foreign Government Entity exception applied and ruled in favour of the intelligence agencies.

On appeal, the District of Columbia Circuit Court rejected this argument and reversed the lower court’s opinion. The Court agreed with the APPG’s argument that ‘representative’ means ‘agent’ and concluded that Tyrie and the APPG fall outside of the Foreign Government Entity Exception because they did not have the authority to file the FOI requests on behalf of the British Government. The FOI requests against the intelligence agencies may now proceed.

My Tyrie and the APPG have been represented by Hogan Lovells US LLP on a pro bono basis.

---

Andrew Tyrie is Conservative MP for Chichester and Chairman and founder of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition. Mr Tyrie can be contacted on 0207 219 5425. His office email is [andrew.tyrie.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.tyrie.mp@parliament.uk). The website of the All Party Group is [www.extraordinaryrendition.org](http://www.extraordinaryrendition.org)