



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

Minister of State for  
Europe and the Americas

22 May 2018

Your reference: ML.C0017.RD.14.05.18

Our reference: MIN/2821/2018

Caroline Lucas MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your email of 14 May to the Foreign Secretary, about the Consolidated Guidance. I am replying as the Minister responsible for Defence and International Security.

The publication of the Consolidated Guidance in July 2010 was an important step in setting out the principles, consistent with UK and international law, which govern the interviewing of detainees overseas and the passing and receipt of intelligence relating to detainees. The guidance is clear about our policy on torture: the British Government does not participate in, solicit, encourage or condone the use of torture for any purpose. We work closely with international partners to eradicate this abhorrent practice.

The Government strongly agrees that we need to ensure UK personnel are not complicit in human rights violations. We take allegations of torture and mistreatment very seriously. We investigate allegations against UK personnel and bring complaints to the attention of detaining authorities in other countries, except where we believe this might itself lead to unacceptable treatment of detainees.

The Prime Minister laid a Written Ministerial Statement in Parliament on 15 September 2016, which stated that we would consider what changes could be made to the guidance to address points raised by the Intelligence Services Commissioner. This work has been taken forward, with input from the Commissioner and his successor, the Investigatory Powers Commissioner. We have also sought the views of the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament in the context of their Detainee Inquiry. These oversight bodies are independent of Government. The Government intends to wait until the Committee's report is published later this year before deciding on next steps.



RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP

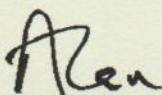


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Please be assured that any changes to the Consolidated Guidance will be made public and laid before Parliament. It is also open to the public and civil society to submit their views to the Government at any time on where they believe the guidance might benefit from further changes or clarification.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan', written in a cursive style.

**RT HON SIR ALAN DUNCAN MP**



