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Dear NGO,

I wanted to write to you following the Statement I made to the House of Commons today on the publication of The Report of the Detainee Inquiry.

The Inquiry was set up by the Prime Minister in July 2010. It was hoped that it would be able to begin its work by the end of that year, and that it would be able to report within a year. However, the Prime Minister made clear that the Inquiry would not be able to begin its work formally until all related police investigations had concluded.

The original police investigations did not complete until January 2012, at which time new investigations were launched. This held out the prospect of further indeterminate delay before the Inquiry could begin its work. For that reason, and in discussion with the Chair of the Inquiry, Sir Peter Gibson, the Government decided it was right to bring the work of the Inquiry to a conclusion. Sir Peter kindly agreed to provide the Government with a report on the Inquiry's preparatory work, highlighting particular themes or issues which might be the subject of further examination. The Government undertook to publish as much as possible of the Inquiry's report.

The Inquiry's Report is now available to download at www.detaineeinquiry.org.uk and, as you will see, contains redactions on only one issue relating to material subject to existing Public Interest Immunity certificates.

As the Panel were not able to hear from witnesses, the Report cannot and does not make findings as to what happened. Nor does it draw conclusions or make recommendations. Nevertheless, it is the product of extensive independent analysis of some 20,000 documents, some of which have not been examined by any previous review. It identifies four broad themes and 27 issues which the Panel believes might merit further examination.

The Government believes that it would be wrong to leave these issues unexamined for the unknown amount of time it will take for the police to complete their investigations. Equally, as we have always made clear, it would be wrong to ask a judge to examine material or hear evidence from witnesses which could in any way compromise an ongoing criminal investigation.

Therefore the Prime Minister has asked the Intelligence and Security Committee to inquire into the themes and issues which Sir Peter has raised, take further evidence; and report to the Government and to Parliament on the outcome of their inquiry.

To assist the Committee further, the Prime Minister has already asked the Agency Heads to provide him with full and detailed responses to the questions raised in the Inquiry's Report for which they are responsible. He has also asked the Intelligence Services Commissioner to

provide his views on current compliance with those aspects of the Consolidated Guidance which he monitors. Both of these reports will be made available to the Committee in full by the end of February next year.

I hope and expect that by the end of next year the ISC will have finished its report. I also hope that the police will have finished their investigations. It will then be possible for the Government to take a view as to whether a further judicial inquiry remains necessary to add any further information of value to future policy making and the national interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Clarke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Clarke

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