



Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From Dr Hywel Francis MP, Chair

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP,
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2 Marsham Street,
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Tuesday 22 January 2013

Review of Schedule 7 Terrorism Act 2000

My Committee is interested in the Home Office's review of the operation of Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 concerning the power to stop and search at ports of entry. We note that the Government's consultation on this review closed on 6 December 2012 but, as far as we are aware, the responses to the consultation have not yet been placed in the public domain.

You may recall that in the Committee's Report on the Justice and Security Green Paper the Committee pointed out that it would have been helpful to those scrutinising the proposals in the Green Paper if the consultation responses had been put in the public domain as soon as they were received. The Committee also recommended that in future Government consultations should make clear that responses to public consultations will be made public unless a request to the contrary is made, to avoid the unnecessary delay involved in the Government going back to each consultee to seek their permission to publish their response: see 24th Report of 2010-12, *The Justice and Security Green Paper*, HL Paper 287/HC 1777, at paras 26-31.

It would greatly assist my Committee's consideration of the issues raised by the consultation if the responses to it (not merely the Government's summary of them) were published by the Government and I would be grateful if you would do so at the earliest opportunity. We would appreciate your response as soon as possible after the end of January so as to enable the Committee to begin its consideration of this subject.

Dr Hywel Francis
Chair