

# Home Affairs Committee

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## From the Committee Chair

22 August 2017

Rt Hon George Howarth MP  
House of Commons

Dear George

Thank you for your recent letter raising your constituent's concerns about the treatment of torture victims seeking asylum in the UK, and passing on the request for a Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the matter.

Like you I believe that the Home Office needs to ensure that there is proper support for torture victims and that they are not forced to endure additional distress as a result of failures in the asylum process.

Freedom from Torture have been in direct touch with committee staff very recently to alert us to concerns around the handling of medical evidence by UK Visas & Immigration caseworkers (the relevant Home Office directorate in asylum cases) and to suggest a committee inquiry into this issue.

As you may know, select committees have not yet been reappointed in the new Parliament although I hope that this will happen during the September sitting.

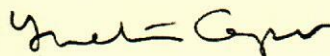
Although it would not be appropriate for me to prejudge the topics which the new committee may wish to prioritise for its initial inquiries, it is our normal practice to take oral evidence from Ministers and officials.

I will ensure that this important matter of the handing of evidence by immigration caseworkers is brought to the Committee's attention when we decide on the specific issues which we will focus on when we next take evidence from the Immigration Minister and the head of UKVI.

You may also want to raise your concerns directly with Home Office Ministers.

I hope this information is helpful to your constituent.

Yours sincerely



**Yvette Cooper MP**  
Chair