

My name is K. I wish to remain completely anonymous throughout this process.

1. I wish to submit evidence to the parliamentary inquiry into detention. I am writing as someone with first hand experience of the UK Immigration Detention system, as I was detained as an asylum seeker in 2014. I wish to remain anonymous throughout this inquiry and that my name should not appear in public at all. I am from Somalia.

2. I was detained in January 2014 until March 2014. During this time I was moved between several different detention centres. The first was Harmondsworth, then I was moved to Morton Hall and then Dungavel. I was detained when signing with the Home Office in London, as my case had been refused. I was released as I submitted a fresh claim for asylum and am now considered to have an ongoing case.

3. I would like to mention the situation with healthcare in detention. In all three of the detention centres that I was held in, healthcare was very very poor and the service was terrible. Regularly I was told by a nurse that they could not help me, or just given painkillers for any problem, including an ear infection. Many other people in detention had the same experience and we all felt that the healthcare services were far below standard. For myself, this was only degrading and a discomfort but for others it was dangerous.

4. Being moved around to different centres was also very hard. I did not know what was happening a lot of the time or where I was going. This created mental stress and pressure. When I moved from Harmondsworth I was given a letter explaining that I was moving though not the reason why, and I was moved on the same day. When I was moved from Morton Hall I was woken at 6 in the morning and the guard said "Come on, we're moving you." I said, "Where? Why?" and they just took me without explaining it. This makes you feel out of control and creates mental problems. It is also a problem in access to services. For example lawyers in Scotland and England have to be different and to be abruptly moved from one to the other can interfere with your legal case.

5. These are the main points I would like to raise about UK detention. The experience of detention is very hard and often we do not want to talk about it.

I can be contacted via Unity Centre Glasgow on 01414277992 or at info@unitycentreglasgow.org

