

Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention: written evidence submitted by Mr G, former detainee.

Emailed to Giovanna Fassetta, Chair of Scottish Detainee Visitors on 23 September 2014.

Formatted by Kate Alexander, Coordinator of Scottish Detainee Visitors.

1. For now I'm not prepared to give oral evidence. I may change my mind in near future.
2. My detention began on 22nd of April 2009 after serving a 9 months sentence for possessing a false passport to claim benefits, and that was the first time. I've spent 2 years and 7 months and 9 days [in detention] after spending 9 months prison sentence, as the home secretary have decided that I should be deported which was reasonable at that stage but until over 1,000 days that become clear that my detention was unlawful. I was release on the 1st of December after spending all my time between 3 detention centres (Dungavel house, Campsfield house and Morton Hall) until I was release in the city where I'm still living until today.
3. [Detention] was a very bad experience, which I will never wish anyone to go through. After residing in the 3 centres which I've mention above I came to my own conclusion that Dungavel House was better than others as Campsfield had a very poor hygiene and low standard health care, while in Morton Hall welfare of detainees was of low standard and poor communication between staff and detainees.
4. There was no mechanism or preparation of detainees to deal with the outside world once release.
5. The home secretary can improve detainees wellbeing and healthcare also good handling and treatment of torture survivor. Some detention has a very poor standard of disable treatment this [needs] to be changed and give proper treatment.
6. Most European countries has a time limit why cant establish similar or alternative measure? The current system is inhuman and simply torture. I understand that detention should be use as last measure for deportation but the secretary is detaining so many people even when is clear that they cannot be detained or sent to their countries, for example: Somalia. After detaining someone for a long time it costs taxpayers money and then [there is a need to] compensate if that long detention became illegal. I think that's waste of time and money. The current detention system needs a review and change as this is not just working but profiting organisation as Serco, Geo, G4S etc.... My conclusion would be to release people in [the] community while paperswork are processed [rather] than detaining them which has a huge impact (physical, mental, etc.)
7. I hope our voice would be heard and this treatment would one day end.
Thanks