



Information about yourself	
Your name	Thanusan Tharmakantha
Do you want your name to be made public?	Yes
Do you wish to give oral evidence before the inquiry panel? (Please note that due to a limited amount of time available, the panel will not be able to take evidence directly from everyone.)	Yes
Are you making this submission by yourself or is someone helping you? If so, who is this person?	Supported by Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group
Date you are completing this form	20/9/14
If you are you in detention now...	
When did your detention begin?	
Is this the first time you are detained in the UK?	
If this is not the first time you are in detention, can you tell us how many times you were in detention before and how long?	
Can you tell us a little about why you are in detention?	
If you are no longer in detention and are currently living in the community...	
When were you released from detention?	<p>My first detention was on the 23rd of January to 13th March In Tinsley House IRC. Then I was taken to Brook House IRC on the 13th March and was released on the 9th of April (3 months in total).</p> <p>My second detention was on the 4th of August to 11th of August In Haslar IRC. Then I was taken to Colnbrook IRC on the 11th of August and was released on the 28th of August (1 month in total)</p>
How long were you in detention?	I was in detention 3 months the first time, 1 month the second time
In which detention centres/prisons were you detained?	Tinsley House; Broom House; Colnbrook; and Haslar
Can you tell us a little about why you were in detention?	I am an asylum seeker a Tamil Origin from Sri Lanka and since my court appeals were exhausted was detained when my case was still on progress. The first thing home office told me when i was going to be detained was that I will be removed to my country
Do you now have a right to remain in the UK?	No



If you are still waiting to hear from the Home Office about their decision on your case, how long have you been waiting?	Appeal recently refused
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------

Questions form the panel – Please read the sub-questions on pages between 12 and 15 of ‘The Guide for Individuals’. Make sure your answers will not be longer than 3,000 words.

1) Your experiences of living in immigration detention, including the context and duration of your stay;

My first detention was on the 23rd of January to 13th March In Tinsley House IRC. Then I was taken to Brook House IRC on the 13th March and was released on the 9th of April. My second detention was on the 4th of August to 11th of August In Haslar IRC. Then I was taken to Colnbrook IRC on the 11th of August and was released on the 28th of August.

I am an asylum seeker a Tamil Origin from Sri Lanka and since my court appeals were exhausted was detained when my case was still on progress. The first thing home office told me when i was going to be detained was that I will be removed to my country. If you are going into the detention for the first time, then it will make you feel really worried and I was panicking. Even the Tascor officers (transporting detainee officers) will give you a scary look. For instance, in my first detention when I was about to be taken to the detention center from Eaton House they Tascor officer handcuffed me and was standing tall towards me and was taking me to the van like a criminal. I havent done anything wrong. I fled my country and was begging for a life in this country and the first treatment is cuffing you and making you look like a prisoner. When they took me to Tinsley House I was scared and frightened. There was so much of waiting to be done before I entered the reception, It could be procedures but you are inside a van sealed from everything and the drivers do get off the van and go for smoke and you sit there and cry.

2) The conditions in immigration detention, including your ability to access services such as legal advice, healthcare, pastoral support;

Most of the officers in the detention centers are good when they get to know us or know our background its just a few of them really treat us like prisoners. There will be officers for a block and in a block you might find 80 to 100 people (in Brook House) and there are specific times when they open and even after opening we have to wait in the queue and ask our needs and there are times where we r ignored as well. The officers will just sit on the chairs and talking ignoring our presence.

3) Whether there were appropriate mechanisms to deal with any mental, physical or emotional issues you may have experienced prior to or during your time in detention;

I have been a torture victim and I have suffered mentally and physically as well when i was in my



country. All those changed and I was leading a peaceful life I thought when I first came to this country but nothing was really over. I was safe here but the past always haunted me. The detention doubled my fears as it was before and I was fully depressed that i skipped my sleeps n i started to get medication and till now i am on medication. the surrounding and structure of detention has made me to look like a waste and can never give a chance to live. since i was in detention I have had many thoughts of killing my self or harming myself. and it really hurts when officers don't feel our pain and think it as we act in front of them, to show that we are innocent etc... but when people say that they are thinking of harming themselves or murdering then they will be watch closely and 24hr security for him... detention is very painful if you see it properly. and most importantly they don't allow camera phones is that to make sure that non of their activities or unlawful treatment of innocent people.

4) Any longer-term impacts of detention on you, your family and/or your wider community;

5) Any other information about detention that you would like to share.

6) How far does the current detention system support the needs of vulnerable detainees, including pregnant women, detainees with a disability and young adults?

7) There is currently no time limit on immigration detention – in your view what are the impacts (if any) of this?

8) Are the current arrangements for authorizing detention appropriate?

9) What are the wider consequences of the current immigration detention system, including any financial and/or social implications?

10) How effective are the current UK alternatives to detention (e.g. bail, reporting requirements)? Are viable alternatives to immigration detention in operation in other countries?