

The Detention Inquiry

How to get your voice heard

Guide for Individuals
16 August 2014

The Detention Forum



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Acknowledgement – A big thank you to Hannah Jones who gave us advice on how best to capture individual evidence. Any errors and omissions are entirely ours.

INTRODUCTION

1. About the Detention Forum

The Detention Forum is a network of about 30 groups who have come together to question and challenge the UK's use of immigration detention. We are working together to put a time limit on detention, end detention of vulnerable people and improve the judicial oversight of detention.

2. What is this inquiry about?

The first ever parliamentary inquiry into immigration detention was launched on 7th July 2014. It is jointly led by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration (for more information about APPGs, see [here](#)).

A parliamentary inquiry is where MPs (Members of Parliament, people who sit in the House of Commons) and peers (people who sit in the House of Lords) call for written evidence and convene a panel to hear further oral evidence about a particular issue, in this case immigration detention in the UK. Once the inquiry has read and heard all of the evidence, they issue a report with recommendations for the people making policy (the government and the Home Office and, indirectly, other political parties hoping to be in government). The recommendations have no legal weight – the government can ignore the recommendations, but the involvement of lots of cross-party MPs and peers makes it unlikely they could entirely ignore the conclusions of the inquiry. The report (and therefore the evidence submitted to the inquiry) could have a positive influence on the way detention is operated in the UK. The inquiry – in itself – is very very unlikely to result in the end of all detention, even if this is what most of the evidence calls for. It's an important step, however, in challenging detention in the UK and getting MPs, peers and others to take action on this issue.

The deadline for written submissions (you submit evidence about detention in writing) is 1 October 2014. The first oral evidence session took place on 17 July 2014. It is likely that there will be a couple more oral evidence sessions after 1 October 2014. It is anticipated that its final report will be published in January 2015.

3. Why should we be involved?

The inquiry is important for everyone who is opposed to immigration detention or is concerned about it, because:

- The inquiry panel is particularly keen to hear from individuals with experience of detention. This includes people who are currently in detention, as well as people who are now living in the community, regardless of their immigration status. These people are 'experts-by-experience', yet seldom heard directly by MPs, peers and others who make policies about detention. It is an opportunity for them to take part in a political debate about immigration detention.
- It is an opportunity to demonstrate that many people, beyond the geographical locations of the detention centres, are concerned about immigration detention.

- It is an opportunity to demonstrate that there needs to be long-term dedicated parliamentary scrutiny of detention (which currently does not exist). It's important the inquiry has concrete outcomes and we all need to do our best to make our voice heard. The inquiry's final report *might* contain recommendations for the government before the next General Election. It could be a tool to take the government and the politicians to account, so feeding into the inquiry which shapes the final report is important.

4. Why is the Detention Forum producing this guide?

The Detention Forum is encouraging its members and others to make submissions and will try to engage parliamentarians and others during the inquiry. We are therefore making two guides, a guide for groups and a guide for individuals (i.e. people who are in detention or who have experience of detention). The guide for groups was published on 28 July. If you want a copy, please email us at detentionforum@gmail.com. This guide you are reading now is a guide for individuals.

These guides are available to everyone who needs it in the hope that more people, particularly those people with direct experience of detention, feel confident about making their voices heard. However, this does not mean that we are the experts! So please bear in mind that the information contained in these guides are only suggestions. Perhaps you have a better idea – if so, let us know.

5. Where can I find out more about the inquiry? - For more information about the inquiry, visit its official website at www.detentioninquiry.com. You might wish to follow them on Twitter at @APPGRefugees. The hashtag for the inquiry is #detentioninquiry

6. Need more help? Want to chat? - If you are going to use this guide, we would like to hear from you. Drop us a line at detentionforum@gmail.com and let us know whether you have found it useful. If you want to have a chat about the guide, please also contact us.



Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

1. Deadline? The most important deadline is 1 October 2014, which is the deadline for written submissions to the inquiry panel.

2. Where are you now? In detention or outside detention?

If you are in detention now:

- you can tell the inquiry about your experience of detention, and what you think should be done, by completing the form which you will find at the end of this guide. This form is not an official form but it may help to put your views across to the panel. Or you can write a submission without a form, by carefully answering the questions listed at www.detentioninquiry.com. Remember the panel is likely to receive many submissions and they will not be responding to all the points raised by the submissions.
- find out if the visitor's group to your detention centre can help you with submitting written evidence.
- find out if your friends or supporters can help you with submitting written evidence.
- contact us if you can't find anyone to help you. Please email us at detentionforum@gmail.com with your name, detention number and mobile number and we will call you back to see if we can help. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee to help everyone.
- after you have made a submission, *only if you want to and if you think it is safe to do so*, you could tell your MP that you have made a submission and you want him/her to go and attend the oral hearing sessions of the inquiry. You can, of course, ask your MPs to do other things too, such as supporting a campaign.

If you were in detention in the past but are now living in the community:

- you can tell the inquiry about your experience of detention, and what you think should be done, by completing the form which we will find at the end of this guide. This form is not an official form but it may help you to put your views across to the panel. Or you can write a submission without a form, by carefully answering the questions listed at www.detentioninquiry.com. Remember the panel is likely to receive many submissions and they will not be responding to all the points raised by the submissions.
- find out if there are any local groups supporting asylum seekers, refugees and migrants who can help you with submitting written evidence. Show them this guide and/or the guide for groups which is available on the Detention Forum webpage at www.detentionforum.wordpress.com
- if you can't find anyone to help you, please email us at detentionforum@gmail.com with your name and mobile number and we will try to contact you to see if we can help you. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee to help everyone.
- after you have made a submission, *only if you want to and if you think it is safe to do so*, you could tell your MP that you have made a submission and you want him/her to go and attend the oral hearing sessions of the inquiry. You can, of course, ask your MPs to do other things too, such as supporting a campaign of your choice.

3. If you are a charity, community organisation, or campaign group...

If you are a charity, community organisation, or campaign group in touch with people in detention, who were in detention and/or who support people with experience of detention, you can do the following (and more if you want);

- help individuals affected by detention to make individual submissions. You might want to use the form which you will find at the end of this guide or simply follow the questions listed on the inquiry panel website.
- if you are in touch with a group of individuals who are/were affected by detention, host 'focus group' style discussions to gather evidence in a safe environment and submit it on their behalf. Please see **4. Gathering evidence for submission – tips for groups** in The Guide for Groups which is available from our website for further information – however we trust you have existing knowledge and skills and you may not need our input!
- After you have made a submission, consider engaging local MPs so that they know that local communities are concerned about this issue. For more information, read the section **Amplify the impact of your submission** on page 12 in The Guide for Groups.
- If you want us to email you The Guide for Groups, contact us at detentionforum@gmail.com.

GETTING YOUR SUBMISSION READY

1. What does this guide do?

This guide is written for individuals with experience of detention who wish to make a written submission to the detention inquiry. It is also for people who are helping individuals with experience of detention to prepare their submissions.

Please remember that the submission deadline is 1 October 2014. The submission must be sent to:

By email	jonathan.featonby@parliament.uk
By post	Detention Inquiry, Office of Sarah Teather MP House of Commons, Westminster, SW1A 0AA

2. Before you start...

Not many people who are or were in detention have prepared written submissions to an inquiry before. So here are some things that you can think about before you start preparing your submission.

- Do not be afraid to use your own words and say what you think. You do not have to write like a policy expert. You are an expert-by-experience. There is no right or wrong answer. It is important that the panel understands your point of view, so express yourself freely.
- You do not have to answer all the questions which are asked by the panel, or by the person who is helping you by interviewing you and writing down your answers.
- Where possible, try to give specific examples to explain your point. Remember that unlike you, people on the panel have not been detained, so do not assume that they know what you are trying to say.
- Be careful about what type of information that you share with the panel. Although you can ask the panel not to make your name public, the panel is likely to make your submission available for other people to read. For example, you might not want your friends to know that you were in detention or about your current immigration status. You might not want your friends to know medication conditions or experiences you have had, such as torture, sexual violence and abuse.
- If you want to write about what happened to other people in detention, respect their dignity and privacy. If you do not have their agreement, do not share their names or give specific information about them (such as their nationality, date of birth, personal circumstances and medical conditions) which will make it possible to identify them.
- If someone is helping you to write a submission, beware that it might take a lot of time to completely finish preparing a submission. For example, you will need to make sure you are happy with the final version of the submission. You could ask the person who is helping you to read it back if you find it difficult to read, or you can ask the person to send you a copy of the document so that you can read it yourself (**but remember if you are in detention, the documents you receive through fax are not confidential and there is no guarantee that the letters you receive will remain confidential**, so think carefully about how to do this). If you find some sections you are not happy with, ask them to correct them. But do remember, please be polite to them – they are helping you.

- Be clear about why you are making the submission. The panel is likely to receive many submissions from individuals and they will not be able to intervene with individual cases. So your submission is unlikely to help your own case. By making a submission, however, you will be helping the panel to understand the impact of detention better and potentially influencing the way that the UK government will use detention in the future.
- If you have asked someone to help you prepare your submission, please also read the next section too.

3. Ethical and other issues to remember when you are helping individuals to prepare submissions

You might be helping individuals who wish to make submissions to the inquiry because you know them as friends or you know them through the organisations you work or volunteer for.

The person may just want you to check their written text to see if it makes sense. Or the person would like you to write down what they say and create a submission (for which you can use the form which is available at the end of this guide). This section mainly deals with the latter.

- Needless to say, it is not easy for everyone to talk about their experience of detention. Make sure that you have a good relationship with the person and the person is happy for you to help him/her.
- Even if you think the person is aware of the detention inquiry, it is advisable to explain once again what the inquiry does and doesn't do before you start. Managing expectation at the beginning of the process is important in order to avoid misunderstanding or disappointment.
- Do remember that people in detention are asked endless questions by so many different professionals and organisations, so sometimes it can get difficult to distinguish one set of questions from another.
- Make sure that the person understands that it is not within the remit of the inquiry to investigate and intervene into individuals' cases, for instance. If they need specific practical help, such a visitor or help with applying for bail, with their consent, you may want make a referral on their behalf to organisations which can offer support. You also need to be careful with your boundaries and ensure the person you are helping knows what you can do and what you are not able to do.
- Interviewing the person, writing up the answers, turning them into a submission document and checking if the person is happy with it or not will take a lot of time. So allow for enough time to complete the process. Make sure you explain that to the person you are helping as well.
- If the person is still in detention, think carefully about the logistics. It might not be easy or possible to interview them during your visit at the detention centres, because you might not be allowed to take in pens or paper. You might want to speak to them on the phone, if so think about how to record what the person has said. Will you be writing down answers or will you be making an audio recording and then transcribing the answers you have recorded? Because of the word-limit of 3,000 words, it might not be possible to include everything the person wants to say. Make sure you explain that clearly at the beginning, because you might need to edit what people say.

- Consider how to make sure that the person that you are helping is happy with what you have written. You might want to verify the written text by reading it back to the person on the phone. It is important that the person who was interviewed has a copy of the submission. Will you be able to email, fax or post it to him/her? If the person you are helping is still in detention, how do they feel about a copy of their submission being faxed or being posted? Neither method guarantees absolute confidentiality. Make sure you agree how to go about doing this.
- Decide in advance who will actually send the submission to the panel and how.
- For many people who are/were in detention, English is not their first language. Ideally, you might want to find someone who can translate for you but this is likely to be very difficult. Do your best to explain the questions simply and be patient.
- Be mindful of what gets lost when you paraphrase what the person has told you. Although it might not be possible to capture a verbatim record of what was said, individuals' testimonies, in their own words, are extremely powerful. There is no magic solution to this problem.
- There will be lots of questions to ask. If necessary, allow for a break so that the interviewing does not become too stressful for both of you.
- The form at the end of the guide can be used as a basis for 'structured interviewing', when used in conjunction with the sub-listed between pages 11 and 14. We think they can be helpful. However, these sub-questions can also 'skew' the views of those who are participating. Be careful what you ask and make sure you give people space to answer the big questions in a way they want to, too. You might learn something new.
- Remember that you are reporting their experiences and opinions, not your own (you can write your own submission if you wish to do this). Listen carefully and respect what the person says, even if you do not necessarily agree with it.
- Be prepared that the person you are helping might disclose traumatic experiences such as sexual violence and torture and consider how you react. Make sure that if the person says s/he needs help, you know which organisations to contact.

4. What the panel wants to know

According to the Detention Inquiry website, the panel wants to know the answers to the questions below.

For those with direct experience of immigration detention, please include as much information as you can about:

- Your experiences of living in immigration detention, including the context and duration of your stay;
- The conditions in immigration detention, including your ability to access services such as legal advice, healthcare, pastoral support;

- 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;
- Any longer-term impacts of detention on you, your family and/or your wider community;
- Any other information about detention that you would like to share.

For all other respondents, please address some/all of the following questions, supporting your answers with examples and evidence where possible:

- What are your views on the current conditions within UK immigration detention centres, including detainees' access to advice and services? Please highlight any areas where you think that improvements could be made.
- How far does the current detention system support the needs of vulnerable detainees, including pregnant women, detainees with a disability and young adults?
- What are the impacts of immigration detention on individuals, family and social networks, and wider communities?
- There is currently no time limit on immigration detention – in your view what are the impacts (if any) of this?
- Are the current arrangements for authorizing detention appropriate?
- What are the wider consequences of the current immigration detention system, including any financial and/or social implications?
- 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?

The first set of questions are for individuals with direct experience of detention and the second set of questions are for others.

In our view, however, these questions overlap. We believe that people with experience of detention should be involved in discussing detention at policy level too. So our suggestion to people who are making submissions as individuals is that you answer the first set of questions first, making sure you also say what should change to make things better. These questions are as follows.

- Your experiences of living in immigration detention, including the context and duration of your stay;
- The conditions in immigration detention, including your ability to access services such as legal advice, healthcare, pastoral support;
- 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;
- Any longer-term impacts of detention on you, your family and/or your wider community;
- Any other information about detention that you would like to share.

If you have time (and we hope you do), you should also answer the five questions of the second set of questions although it is not necessary to do so. The questions are:

- How far does the current detention system support the needs of vulnerable detainees, including pregnant women, detainees with a disability and young adults?
- There is currently no time limit on immigration detention – in your view what are the impacts (if any) of this?
- Are the current arrangements for authorizing detention appropriate?
- What are the wider consequences of the current immigration detention system, including any financial and/or social implications?

- 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?

Whatever you do, make sure you give examples and evidence to illustrate your points. For example, if you think that the detention system is unfair, can you describe an incident that will show the panel what you mean? If you think that it is difficult to access healthcare in detention, can you describe difficulties you faced or witnessed when trying to access healthcare? This will help the panel to understand your experience and evidence.

5. What should you include in a submission document?

The Parliamentary webpage [here](#) has useful guidelines to bear in mind when making a submission. Although the guidelines are aimed at people making submissions to a select committee, many of them are still relevant. We reproduce the key points below.

- State clearly who the submission is from, i.e. whether from yourself in a personal capacity or sent on behalf of an organisation, for example the submission could be headed 'Written evidence submitted by xxxxxx'
- Be concise (the Detention Inquiry Panel word limit for written submissions is 3,000 words)
- Begin with an executive summary in bullet point form of the main points made in the submission
- Include a brief introduction about yourself/your organisation and your reason for submitting evidence
- Have numbered paragraphs
- Include any factual information you have to offer from which the committee might be able to draw conclusions, or which could be put to other witnesses for their reactions
- Include any recommendations for action by the Government or others which you would like the committee to consider.

Again, you can see the importance of making recommendations when making submissions. It is important that you take your time to think carefully about what your experiences of detention mean and what should change in the future.

6. What do you want to see changed?

If you want to influence the panel, it is very important that you make recommendations to the panel, and not just list problems and concerns. When preparing your submission, allow time for explaining what you think are problems AND what you think are the solutions. You might find it useful and informative to speak to others and bounce off ideas so that your ideas become clearer.

To give you a sense of what 'recommendations' might mean in this context, here is an example. In the Detention Forum, our key recommendations are as follows. There are many more possible recommendations, but these are the ones that we are focussing on.

- The government should introduce a time limit on immigration detention.
- Vulnerable people should not be detained.
- There should be improved judicial oversight of detention.

If you want to know more about each of these recommendations, please get in touch with us.

We also think that people who are going through the immigration process should live in the community and not in detention throughout the process. In those cases, people should be properly supported in the community.

You can also refer to existing research and reports to back up your recommendations if you want. If you want further guidance on this, please get in touch with us.

7. You want to say something different...

If there are other issues which are not covered by the questions set by the inquiry panel that you want to highlight, you should go ahead and do so. The panel might not address them but they will at least know that there are other issues that people are concerned about. Add your own evidence!

8. Sub-questions

Each question that the panel wants evidence on is a big question, so you might want to break it down to several different sub questions. This could be useful if you feel 'stuck' for an answer or don't know where to start. These sub-questions might help you consider things they have not thought about before. We list some examples of sub-questions below. You might not need them, or you might have better sub-questions. They are just intended as prompts to help you to think about things you might want to tell the panel.

If you are helping someone to prepare the submission, please note that these sub-questions could help in a 'semi-structured interview' style setting. However, these sub-questions can also 'skew' the views of those who are answering them. Make sure you listen to what the person is saying, as they may cover some of these issues without prompting, or the questions might not always be appropriate. If you don't understand or you're not sure what someone is saying, ask for clarification or for an example to help you understand, rather than trying to second-guess what they mean. Remember that you are reporting their experiences and opinions, not your own (you can write your own submission if you wish to do this). Be careful what you ask and make sure you give people space to answer the big questions in a way they want to, too. You might learn something new.

The questions asked by the inquiry panel are in italics. Suggested sub-questions are provided in bullet points. If you can think of other useful sub-questions, let us know.

If you are using the form that you will find at the end of this guide, you might want to look at these sub-questions while completing the form.

Your experiences of living in immigration detention, including the context and duration of your stay.

- You should explain when you were detained and for how long, and where. Maybe you can explain why you were detained too. Were you an asylum seeker? Did you overstay your visa?

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

- What were the conditions like in immigration detention?
- Are the rooms comfortable? Are people in detention able to live with dignity and respect? Can you give examples?
- Did you find it easy or difficult to access to legal advice, healthcare, pastoral care, phones, fax machine, computers, internet, post, 'work', interpreters, libraries etc?
- What do/did you think about the process of being detained? How did it happen and was it appropriate?
- What do you think of the physical environment of detention centres? Is the level of security appropriate?
- Are there any differences between different centres? What are they? Have you experienced 'segregation' and would you like to say something about this?
- Many people are also held as immigration detainees in prisons. Did this happen to you? If so, what are the conditions like in prisons? If you have been in both a prison and a detention centre, how would you compare them?
- Will improvements make detention 'okay'? If so, what would these improvements be? If not, what should be the alternative to detention?

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;

- Did you have any mental, physical or emotional problems before you entered detention? Did your condition get better or worse?
- Did you develop any mental, physical or emotional problems after you entered detention? In your view, was it caused by your experience of detention? If so, can you explain how being in detention caused these problems?
- Can you explain if you found it easy or difficult to get help for your mental, physical or emotional problems? If you have found it difficult, can you give examples? If you found it easy, can you explain what help you got and how you accessed it?
- If you have been released from detention and are living in the community, in your view, did / do you suffer from mental, physical or emotional effects of detention? Can you give examples of this? Once in the community, have you found it easy or difficult to access help for your problems?

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

- Do you think you are affected by long-term impacts of detention? If so, what are they?
- Have you been separated from families and friends by detention? Do / did you find it easy to maintain relationships? Do you think your relationships are affected by your detention? If so, how?
- It's worth remembering that around one in three people who are detained later get released back into the community. How does experience of detention affect your ability to integrate in the UK society? How do you feel about Britain now?
- Do you ever fear detention and re-detention (for example, at reporting)? If so, how does this affect you?
- How do / did communities or friends support you in detention?

- Does the image of ‘detention’ make the general public think of immigrants as criminals? (Note, however, that some people in detention are ex-offenders: i.e. people who have served their criminal sentences. Their human rights and civil liberties also need to be respected.) Do you feel ‘stigma’ or shame of detention? If so, how does it affect you?

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

- Here, you should state anything you feel that the panel’s questions do not address, or anything else you want to add to your previous statements.

The following questions are not aimed at individuals with experience of detention but we think you might like to share your views with the panel.

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

- There is meant to be a mechanism called Rule 35 which prevents detention of vulnerable people. However, many NGOs are concerned that this mechanism is not working. Did you meet any pregnant women, people with a disability, or young adults in detention? Do you think the detention system supported their needs? Were you detained while vulnerable in any of these ways? If so, how did this affect your experience of detention?
- Vulnerability is hard to define. Some people might include elderly people, people who are ill, or people who do not speak English very well in this category. What do you think defines a vulnerable person? Did you meet vulnerable people in detention? Were you vulnerable yourself?
- Do you think the detention system itself can make people vulnerable? If so, can you describe any examples of this happening?
- If you met any vulnerable people in detention, or you were vulnerable yourself, was there any support for vulnerable people (for example, did pregnant women have access to pre-natal care or were people who did not speak English and confused get any special help)?
- Should vulnerable people be detained at all?

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

- Does not knowing when you will be leaving detention have a particular impact on you/communities?
- How did you cope with not knowing when you might be released?
- Should there be a time limit on detention? Why? If you think there should be a time limit, how long should it be?
- Are there other things that could be done to help with the impacts of not knowing when you will be leaving detention?

Are the current arrangements for authorizing detention appropriate?

- In your view, are the decisions to detain and/or release made fairly and appropriately? Can you give reasons why you think this?

- When you were detained, did you feel that you should be detained? Did you clearly understand why you were detained and how you could challenge your detention?
- Did you apply for bail? What was your experience like? What happened? How did you feel?

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

- Detention costs almost £50,000 per person per year. Do you think that it is a good use of the tax-payer's money?
- What do you think detention does to your community (your friends and families)? For example, do you think it affects the behaviour, physical or mental health, relationships, safety, how they feel about themselves or other aspects of the lives of people even if they have not themselves been detained?

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

- Many people get released back in to the community and are living there on bail or with reporting conditions. What does it feel like to be on bail? To report? Can you engage with the immigration system and pursue your case when you are on bail?
- What support is there for people released into the community? How do community organisations help these people? Is it better to be in the community like this rather than in detention? Why?

AMPLIFY THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUBMISSION - Do you want to take part in our project, Unlocking Detention?

The Detention Forum will be running our exciting Twitter project called 'Unlocking Detention – a Twitter tour of the UK detention estate' from September to December. More information is available on our webpage [here](#). If you want to take part, follow us on Twitter on @DetentionForum. If you want us to tweet sections of your submissions, you can contact us at detentionforum@gmail.com. We are currently working on our new website at www.detentionforum.org.uk which you can also visit.

Prepared by the Detention Forum
16 August 2014

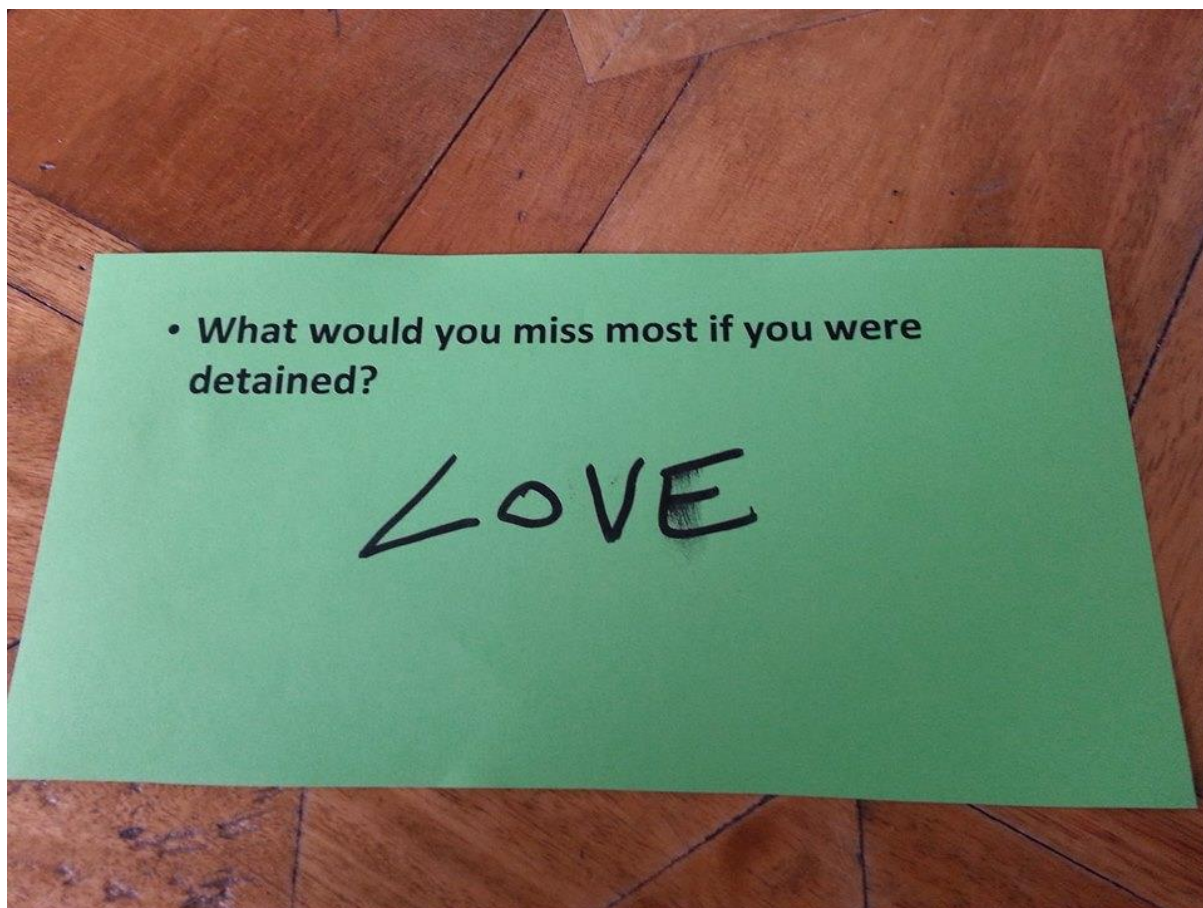


Photo by the Detention Forum – at the workshop held in July 2014

SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORM prepared by the Detention Forum

This form is provided as a sample and you do not to use it to submit your own evidence. You might like to complete the form yourself or ask someone to help you.

There is no need to answer all the questions below. You might find sub-questions which are listed on pages between 12 and 15 useful when answering these questions.

The form does not strictly follow the submission framework set by the panel. However, we think the form is clear enough for the panel to be able to follow.

Remember that the deadline is 1st October 2014. Send your submission to:

By email jonathan.featonby@parliament.uk OR
By post Detention Inquiry, Office of Sarah Teather MP
House of Commons, Westminster, SW1A 0AA

Information about yourself	
Your name	
Your contact details (address, email address, telephone number, detention number if you are in detention)	
Do you want your name to be made public?	
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.)	
Are you making this submission by yourself or is someone helping you? If so, who is this person?	
Date you are completing this form	
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?	
How long were you in detention?	
In which detention centres/prisons were you detained?	
Can you tell us a little about why you were in detention?	

Do you now have a right to remain in the UK?	
If you are still waiting to hear from the Home Office about their decision on your case, how long have you been waiting?	

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;

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

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;

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?