

Claim No. CO/8950/2013IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICEQUEEN'S BENCH DIVISIONADMINISTRATIVE COURTBETWEEN:

THE QUEEN

(on the application of [REDACTED])

Claimant

and

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

Defendant

WITNESS STATEMENT OF DAVID KEATING

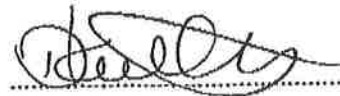
I, David Keating, Country Returns Manager for Country Returns Operation Strategy (CROS) working for the Home Office, will say as follows:

1. I am a Country Returns Manager working for the Home Office. I am making this statement to explain the basis on which the Defendant has detained [REDACTED]. The contents of this statement are based upon my knowledge as the Country Returns Manager with direct involvement in returns to Iraq.
2. Mr [REDACTED] is a national of Iraq. He claims to be from Sulaymaniyah, a city in the Kurdistan region.
3. On 16 June 2013 Mr [REDACTED]'s bio-data, a copy of Mr [REDACTED]'s Iraqi ID card, a copy of the re-admission pro-forma, and an Iraq KRG Referral form were sent to the Kurdistan Regional Government ("KRG") Authorities by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office contact point in Erbil via email. A copy of the email and attached documents are provided as exhibits to this witness statement [DK/1- 9].
4. As set out in this email, the KRG Authorities were informed of the details of Mr [REDACTED]'s latest conviction. The email sent to the KRG Authorities stated:

"For your information, the subject's latest conviction was for harassment / threats to kill, and he was sentenced to 1 year and 4 months' imprisonment..."
[DK/1]

5. As is stated in the re-admission pro-forma, the KRG officials were clearly informed that Mr [REDACTED] did not wish to return to Iraq prior to accepting his return [DK/6]
6. On 18 September 2013, the General Director of Passport Nationality and Residence in Erbil confirmed that the Mr [REDACTED] is from the KRG and his return would be accepted [DK/10].
7. Since April 2012, 93 foreign national offenders have been returned to the KRG. 14 of those individuals have been classified as 'enforced' returns, who resisted attempts to comply with the removals process and attempted to frustrate their removal from the UK. There has been no indication that the removal of these 14 individuals has led to any disruption whilst boarding the aircraft, during the flight to Erbil or on their arrival in the KRG.

Signed


David Keating

Dated


8 October 2013