



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

BETTY WILLIAMS AS/MP
Aelod Seneddol Liafur Etholaeth Conwy
Labour Member of Parliament for Conwy

Office: (020) 7219 5052
Surgery Appointments: 01248 680097

Name Withheld

Address
Withheld

My Ref: C6097/63361 - *please quote in reply*

6th June 2008

Name Withheld

Further to my letter of 14th May 2008, enclosed is a copy of the reply dated 2nd June 2008 from Dr Kim Howells MP, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

I hope this is helpful.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Betty Williams

Mrs Betty Williams MP

PS

2 June 2008

Your reference: C6097/63075
Our reference: 59442



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

Betty Williams AS/MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Betty

Thank you for your letter of 14 May on behalf of your constituent, [Name Withheld] of [Address withheld] about his concerns about entering the US.

I am sorry to hear about the problems experienced by [Name Withheld] at San Francisco International Airport. Since September 11, immigration policy in the US has become the responsibility of the US Department of Homeland Security. A wide range of anti-terrorism measures has been introduced which are designed to tighten immigration law and practice, and strengthen border security. This has included increased security measures at airports, which may involve questioning and searching passengers.

These measures apply to all nationals, not just British citizens. Nevertheless, we are concerned about the effect these measures are having on British travellers. Representations have been made to the US Administration at senior Ministerial level, and will continue to be made at every opportunity, in the hope that the inconvenience being caused to passengers may be minimised.

I regret that we cannot intervene with the US authorities in this case for two reasons: (a) visa and immigration policies are for domestic governments to agree; and (b) the US authorities will not share details of [Name Withheld]'s case with us. This is classified and confidential information.

Should [Name Withheld] wish to, he can write about his treatment in the US to the Department of Homeland Security at:

Department of Homeland Security
Attn: Passenger Operations
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 5.4D
Washington DC 22209

Kim Howells

KIM HOWELLS