



Rt Hon William Hague MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
1 King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

8th May 2014

Dear *William* —

I am writing to express my concern at the proposed role that President Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka may play in this summer's Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

The Games will be a proud moment for Scots and for the city of Glasgow in particular, with athletes from Team Scotland competing in 17 sports at the Games.

Yet this world-class sporting celebration risks being overshadowed by questions raised by the possible attendance of Sri Lanka's President in his capacity as Chairperson-in-office of the Commonwealth.

As you will recall, in November last year, during his country's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Labour called for the UK Government to seek consensus in the Commonwealth to prevent President Rajapaksa from automatically assuming the position of Chairperson-in-office.

Following the summit I made clear that I shared the widespread concern that questions still existed over President Rajapaksa's suitability to represent the Commonwealth on the international stage, especially as Sri Lanka remains a designated 'country of concern' in the FCO's Human Rights report.

Since then, President Rajapaksa failed to meet the UK Government's demands that he launch an internal independent inquiry into allegations of human rights abuses.

In response, the UN Human Rights Council has rightly appointed an investigative team to conduct their own international independent inquiry.

But President Rajapaksa has publicly dismissed the need for an inquiry and his Foreign Minister, Gamini Lakshman Peiris, recently confirmed that "Sri Lanka will not participate in this inquiry."



International human rights groups, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch have warned that the Rajapaksa government sought to use last year's Commonwealth summit in Colombo to paper over the lack of progress on human rights in Sri Lanka.

Therefore I would like to ask what steps you are able to take to work constructively with the Games organisers to help ensure that this world-class sporting celebration is not overshadowed by questions raised by the possible attendance of Sri Lanka's President.

In addition I would ask you what formal advice you have given to the Commonwealth Secretariat, Glasgow 2014 Ltd and the Commonwealth Games Federation, regarding any possible role that President Rajapaksa may play at the Games in his capacity as Chairperson-in-office of the Commonwealth?

Given the public interest in this issue, I am releasing this letter today, and await your reply.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP
Shadow Foreign Secretary