

# FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians, London



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Dear Madam

## **The interrogation of detainees....BMJ 16 May 2009**

Pope and Gutheil are right to submit recommendations for consideration of the ethical responsibilities of those who look after detainees suspected of committing acts of terrorism.

In the UK, the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine have already issued guidance<sup>i</sup> on the medical care of persons detained in police custody under the Terrorism Act 2000. This guidance was partly based on the experience of our members from Northern Ireland.

Ensuring fitness for detention and interview requires Forensic Physicians to be appropriately trained, skilled and experienced in assessing detainees who are potentially vulnerable during a possible prolonged period of detention. Occasionally these detainees may require treatment in hospital. Forensic Physicians may also have a role in assessing fitness for interview of these detainees whilst in hospital as they possess the necessary skills to advise on this complex assessment which has such important and serious medicolegal ramifications.

Yours sincerely

**Dr I F Wall, President Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine**  
**Dr C G M Fernie, Registrar Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine**

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<sup>i</sup> Wall I F. *Medical care of persons detained under the Terrorism Act 2000*. Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine. 2007. <https://fflm.ac.uk/upload/documents/1189093340.pdf>