

<your address>
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House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

Dear <insert your Member of Parliament or see [this link](#) how to address Members of the House of Lords> ,

I am deeply concerned that the Government has added a completely new *immigration control* exemption to the Data Protection Bill ("DPBill"). This does not appear in the Data Protection Act 1984 nor in the Data Protection Act 1998 or the General Data Protection Regulation, so why on earth is a new blanket immigration exemption, suddenly needed?

It removes the data rights of you and me, and everyone in the UK, regardless of where we are from or our immigration status. If [your confidential data](#) are used for immigration investigation or enforcement purposes, [even by mistake](#), you won't be able to ask for confirmation how your records were used in processing, to find out what information was used and its source or where it was shared with (in subject access requests). Safeguards for transferring information abroad without adequate protections will not be necessary.

Lord Lucas asked a key question, [in the Second Reading debate](#) of the Data Protection Bill: "Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2, on immigration, takes away rights immigrants have at the moment under the Data Protection Act. Why? What is going on?"

Indeed. What *is* going on?

- On October 5, [the Department for Education confirmed to Sky](#) that that school children's information is being obtained from the National Pupil Database and used to contact families to "regularise their stay or remove them". The clause must be removed, not more children in secret, without oversight or transparency.
- Hundreds of people have been wrongly refused bank accounts or had their driving licences revoked under the former home secretary [Theresa May's measures to "create a hostile environment for illegal immigrants"](#).
- Stories include that of Brit Shane Ridge, from Colne in Lancashire, who [received a letter from the Home Office](#) informing him that his driving licence would be revoked as he had "no lawful basis to be in the UK" and that he faced a £5,000 fine or imprisonment if he didn't leave within 10 working days.
- [David Bolt, the chief inspector of borders and immigration](#), said the Home Office had failed to appreciate the potential impact of such wrong decisions on those affected.

Without our Data Protection rights designed to protect people like you and me, the impact will be ***much*** harder to understand the process or have errors fixed.

And if the sweeping new power in Clause 15 passes without amendment any future changes could be far too broad with too little scrutiny.

Please challenge the removal of our rights. Delete para 4 of Schedule 2 the Data Protection Bill immigration exemption. Tighten Clause 15. Thank you.

Committee Stage begins October 30, 2017.