

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

April 14th 2009

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to express my concern about some elements of the Government's proposed Coroners and Justice Bill, particularly Clause 152.

As I understand it, this would allow, for example, huge expansion of the national DNA database, including for purposes other than the detection of crime; NHS and other medical files to be provided in bulk to the insurance industry; full disclosure of telecommunications data from service providers to government; and further examples of blacklisting databases used by employers. Essentially, the outcome would be the removal of barriers to the sharing of individuals' sensitive data without consent, and to allow the sharing of information that was collected for one purpose to be used for an entirely different purpose.

I receive a vast amount of correspondence from constituents about civil liberties matters and both the Coroners and Justice Bill and similar EU wide efforts to share data are hugely unpopular - for good reason. I urge you to reconsider Clause 152 of the Bill and call on the government as a whole to stop using the threat of terrorism and the promotion of so called public safety as grounds for the erosion of human rights and civil liberties.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.