



# Home Office

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**Honourable Members of the House of Lords**

**11 MAR 2010**

## **CRIME AND SECURITY BILL**

I am writing to draw your attention to the Crime and Security Bill that will soon have its Second Reading in the House of Lords. It has been thoroughly scrutinised in another place and I hope that your Lordships will consider it favourably.

The Government has made significant achievements in tackling crime since 1997: an overhaul of the youth justice system, the adoption of a multi-agency approach to crime, a specific emphasis on anti-social behaviour where there was none before. In addition, we have provided record levels of funding, more police, a comprehensive approach to violent crime, to drugs, and to reducing re-offending.

Since 1997, overall crime as measured by the British Crime Survey has fallen by 36 per cent, including a 41 per cent fall in overall violence and a 54 per cent fall in domestic burglary. As a result of our tough approach on crime, confidence in the Police at a local level is rising, with nearly half of people saying that they feel the police and local agencies are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in their area.

We remain determined to keep on the front foot in the fight against crime and to address issues which are of real concern to the public. For this reason, the Government has introduced measures in the Crime and Security Bill to tackle anti-social behaviour, youth gang violence, financial exploitation and to ensure that justice is done for victims and their families.

We have also built on the good work of this House and in particular Lord Brennan to address the plight of British citizens who are caught up in terrorist attacks abroad. Many British victims of overseas terrorism have little or no chance of

seeking financial redress from the state in which the incident occurred. That is why the Crime and Security Bill will introduce a scheme to compensate British citizens and other eligible applicants who have been injured, or lost loved ones on whom they are financially dependent, as a result of an overseas terrorist act.

You may be interested in the wider provisions in the Bill. In particular, the Bill will cover four key themes:

### **Making our streets Safer**

- **Making families take responsibility for their children's anti-social behaviour** by assessing parenting needs when young people aged 10-15 years are considered for an ASBO and imposing parenting orders where they have breached their ASBOs.
- **Gang injunctions for under-18s**, making people feel safer on the streets by preventing gang violence and intimidation and preventing young people from being sucked into a life of crime.
- **Empowering licensing authorities** to make an order restricting the sale or supply of alcohol between the hours of 3am and 6am.
- **Police powers to search controlled individuals** and to seize items of concern where appropriate.
- **Freeing up police time to tackle crime in our communities** by reducing the information requirements for the police to stop and search.

### **Preventing crimes against the vulnerable**

- **Tackling domestic violence** with Orders issued by courts on the application of police officers requiring an alleged perpetrator to leave the premises for a fixed period of time, empowering victims to feel safe in their own homes rather than seeking refuge elsewhere.
- **Ensuring air weapons are safely locked up** and out of the reach of children, preventing senseless tragedies through the improper storage of these dangerous weapons.

### **Shutting down criminal and exploitative markets**

- **Prevent the use of unauthorised mobile phones in prison**, stopping organised criminals and terrorists from continuing their criminal enterprises from behind bars.
- **License wheel clampers** to prevent unscrupulous companies from exploiting hard working citizens by imposing exorbitant fines.

### **Justice for victims and their families**

- **Protect the public by ensuring the right people are on our DNA database** by retaining indefinitely the DNA records of convicted offenders and holding the DNA profiles of those who are arrested but not convicted for a proportionate amount of time.
- **Retrospectively collect DNA from serious violent and sexual offenders** allowing us to take DNA samples from violent and sexual

offenders returning to the UK following conviction overseas, and to collect DNA from such convicted offenders who are back in our communities.

- **Compensation for British victims of terrorism overseas**, helping our citizens overcome the trauma of a terrorist attack overseas where no equivalent help is available from the country concerned.

I look forward to debating these important issues as the Bill progresses through the Lords. Should you require further detail on any of these provisions Michael Drew from the Bill Team can be contacted on 020 7035 1863.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the House Library.

*Yours sincerely*  
*West of Spithead*

**ADMIRAL THE LORD WEST OF SPITHEAD GCB DSC**