



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport



Home Office

TO2017/07320/DC

14 November 2017

My Lords,

DATA PROTECTION BILL – GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS

We write to inform you of further and final government amendments tabled for Committee stage. While these amendments stretch to nearly 50 pages they nearly entirely comprise consequential amendments to other legislation that were not ready in time for the introduction of the Bill. Additionally, amendments introduce a power for the Secretary of State to enable the government to produce a statutory framework on government's processing of data.

Government data processing

The new data protection law that we are creating will provide greater transparency and accountability over how personal data is used. Given the volume of data that government processes and the public interest in understanding this processing, the government believes that clear and published guidance would serve to improve the transparency and clarity of the processes that government adopts in practice when processing data and the legal basis on which it relies. These amendments create a statutory framework for the government to publish guidance, in consultation with the Information Commissioner, to set out clear procedures for government to follow when processing data.

These amendments do not introduce new powers to process personal data, but instead will assist the government to continue current arrangements of processing data in order to function effectively, with the appropriate safeguards, transparency and accountability in place.

Consequential amendments

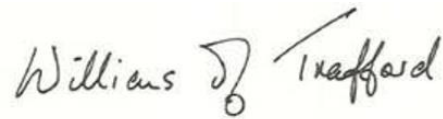
There are over 1,000 references to the Data Protection Act 1998 scattered across the statute book. Schedule 18 of the Bill makes some consequential amendments but is incomplete. We have now had time to consider all changes needed to primary legislation. In the main references to the 1998 Act are either substituted to refer to the Bill, or to the appropriate Article of the GDPR.

I will place a copy of this letter in the House library.

Yours sincerely



Lord Ashton of Hyde



Baroness Williams of Trafford