



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Amanda Solloway MP  
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1 Victoria Street  
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Chi Onwurah MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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28 April 2021

Dear Chi,

### **ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INVENTION AGENCY BILL**

During the Public Bill Committee on 22 April you asked me to clarify two points regarding the Secretary of State's information rights in Clause 6 and I committed to writing to you on the matter.

Section 6(1) states that ARIA must provide information requested by the Secretary of State for the purposes of, or in connection with, their functions in relation to ARIA. Your first question concerns section 6(3) of the Bill and how information that might be subject to commercial confidentiality would be treated. I can confirm that the purpose of sub-clause 6(3) is to enable ARIA to share, on request, information with the Secretary of State that may be subject to an obligation of confidence, such as commercial confidentiality. Section 6(3) states that by sharing this information with the Secretary of State, ARIA does not breach any such obligation of confidence. It does not limit the power of the Secretary of State to request information, or change ARIA's obligation to share it.

Your second question related to the data protection legislation and the limits that the Bill does place, in sections 6(4) and 6(5), on the Secretary of State's power to request information. As you stated during the Committee, it is the case that the Secretary of State cannot require any disclosure of personal data by ARIA that would contravene data protection legislation.

I trust this addresses your query and I would like to thank you for your important work in scrutinising the Bill. I am copying this letter to all members of the Public Bill Committee and I will be placing a copy of this letter in the Libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

**AMANDA SOLLOWAY MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Minister for Science, Research and  
Innovation