Dear Gary and David,

Data Protection Bill – government amendments

Yesterday I tabled further government amendments to the Data Protection Bill. These are largely to the latter end of the Bill and relate to technical, but important matters.

The bulk of these amendments relate to territorial application and consequential provision. Article 3 of the GDPR sets the territorial application of the regulation but further clarity is needed in how the Bill applies. Our amendments, in line with Article 3, ensure it is clear that organisations processing personal data in the UK are regulated by the Information Commissioner, either for their obligations as controllers or as processors.

We have tabled a substantial number of consequential amendments to other legislation. Normally on a Bill of this size these amendments would be done later by regulation. In this instance, however, it is necessary to place these on the face of the Bill as the new law needs to be in force by 25 May 2018 leaving no time for regulation.

I look forward to debating these measures. I am copying this letter to members of the Committee, the clerk to the Committee, Lord Stevenson of Balmacara, Lord Kennedy of Southwark, Lord Clement-Jones, Lord Paddick, Lord Ashton of Hyde, Baroness Williams of Trafford and I am placing a copy in the House library.

Yours ever

MARGOT JAMES MP
Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries