



Home Office

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP  
Minister of State for Immigration

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Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson MP  
Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
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14 April 2023

Dear Dame Diana,

I write further to the letter of 31 August 2021 from the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, the former Home Secretary on the Home Office's resumption of data sharing with other government departments. Data-sharing with the banking sector, resumed on 06 April 2023 to ensure only those eligible to access current accounts are able to do so.

As you know, in 2018 the banking measures were scaled back significantly before suspension in late 2019. Legislation was amended in April last year to specify Synectics Solutions Ltd (SSL) as the Specified Anti-Fraud Organisation (SAFO), to provide a cross-government delivery solution via the Cabinet Office National Fraud Initiative. Since then, the Home Office and banks have been preparing for the resumption of the measures.

New, robust safeguards have been introduced to our data sharing processes. These include additional quality assurance checks before any data is shared; a free customer contact and resolution service available to anyone who feels their access to a current account has been affected by mistake; and finally, the Safety Valve Mechanism (SVM) to ensure specific cases can be raised and reviewed by trained experts within the department. These provide increased assurance and improve the quality of data shared. I am confident these address any concerns relating to data protection and the rectification of errors. Robust processes have been prepared, guidance is being updated, and support put in place to support those individuals impacted by the measures. I will keep the Committee updated on developments and would be happy to provide a fuller update if desired.

I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

**Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP**  
**Minister of State for Immigration**