



# Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

<http://www.parliament.uk/science>

[scitechcom@parliament.uk](mailto:scitechcom@parliament.uk)

From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Baroness Williams of Trafford  
Minister for Countering Extremism  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

27 March 2018

*Dear Susan,*

## **Forensics regulation**

Following the evidence session on 6 February, the Committee sought further information from the Forensic Science Regulator, Dr Gillian Tully. I am writing to raise two issues from the letter she recently sent us.<sup>1</sup>

Dr Tully was concerned that her position under the Data Protection Bill is unclear. Specifically, she highlighted that the Bill, transposing the General Data Protection Regulation into UK law, might provide rights for 'data subjects' which could hamper her investigations of complaints and referrals. Dr Tully tells us that the Home Office is awaiting formal legal advice on whether the Bill provides sufficient data disclosure exemptions, but also highlights that explicitly listing the Forensic Science Regulator in Schedule 2 of the Bill would unambiguously provide the safeguards she needs. Will the Government consider amending the Bill in the way Dr Tully suggests?

Dr Tully also tells us that her post is not explicitly covered by the whistle-blowing provisions that cover other regulators and bodies. Specifically, the Forensic Science Regulator is not a 'prescribed person' under the Employment Rights Act 1996 and the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998. With Dr Tully having raised the issue with the Home Office, I would be grateful if you could let the Committee know what action the Department is taking to remedy this situation.

*Yours,*

**Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP**  
Chair

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/inquiry11/publications/>