



Home Office

Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE
LORDS MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR CRIMINAL INFORMATION

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Dr Hywel Francis MP
Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights
House of Commons
London
SW1P 3JA

10^a May 2014

Dear Hywel,

Immigration Bill: Deprivation of Citizenship

Thank you for your letter of 7 May.

I know that you will understand that it is a long-standing practice of Government not to disclose in public data that which could damage national security or operational effectiveness, or indeed could cause individuals to be identified. This remains our position in relation to your requests for more detailed information on deprivation decisions, beyond the figures we have already provided; this is based on clear advice from the agencies responsible for protecting our national security. The particular concern here is that disclosing in public ever more information on the operational use of the deprivation power may well prompt suspected terrorists to take steps to avoid becoming subject to deprivation, hence making their activities more difficult to disrupt.

As I said during the debate in the House of Lords at Report stage, we would certainly expect to share such information with the individual who we are proposing should conduct periodic reviews of the enhanced deprivation power under Clause 60 of the Immigration Bill, and who would have the appropriate security clearances.

I should reiterate that our only objective in not disclosing publicly the information you have requested is to preserve the effectiveness of what is an important counter-terrorism power, so if it is possible to provide the information in writing or in an oral briefing by officials, and be assured that it would not be put into the public domain, then we would be willing to consider any such proposal.

W.H. my best wishes
J
= J
J.L.

Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE