



Georgia Gould MP
Parliamentary Secretary
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The Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair, Business and Trade Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

Baroness Ramsey of Wall Heath
Chair, Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee
House of Lords
SW1A 0PW

27 August 2025

Dear Liam and Baroness Ramsey,

I am writing to inform you of an administrative error meaning that the text of the Legislative Reform (Disclosure of Adult Social Care Data) Order 2025 was prematurely registered and published on [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk). The purpose of the Order is to enable the sharing of adult social care data to allow local authorities to identify and prevent an estimated £2.3m of fraud per annum.

The Order was approved by the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee on 13th June and the Business and Trade Committee on 4th July. The House of Lords approved the Order on 21st July. However, the text of the Order was incorrectly signed prior to the approval of the House of Commons, and subsequently published on the National Archives website on 23rd July. This was an administrative error; the Government is clear that, as the Order had not received approval from the House of Commons it cannot, and should not, be considered valid law. My officials have engaged with all relevant stakeholders (primarily local authorities through the National Fraud Initiative) to ensure that the powers that will be created by these regulations are not prematurely implemented.

My officials have worked closely with the clerks and Counsel of your committees since this error was identified. The Legislative Reform Order will progress to the House of Commons for approval upon Parliament's return. Following the approval of the legislation, the Order will be signed and made and will come into force, and local authorities will commence the sharing of adult social care data and work immediately to identify and prevent adult social care fraud. The Government shares the view of the Committees that there should be no further delay to local authorities beginning to benefit from the removal of burdens this Order intends to achieve. This approach ensures that the appropriate measures are put in place and enacted as soon as possible.

I would like to apologise to you for this error, which is not representative of the high standards that the Government holds itself to in the delivery of legislation. The Cabinet

Office is reflecting on its processes and improving guidance within the department to ensure that issues such as this do not happen again.

I have written separately to the Speakers of both Houses to inform them of this error.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Georgia Gould". The signature is written in a dark ink and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

**Georgia Gould MP
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY**