



The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP & Dan Jarvis MBE MP
Minister for Digital Government and Data &
Security Minister

Dame Chi Onwurah MP
Chair of the Science, Innovation and Technology Select Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

25 February 2025

Dear Dame Chi,

Thank you for inviting us both to the 10th February session on information and data security.

As set out during the session, we are committed to raising information security and data security standards across government. Underpinning this commitment, we signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the ICO in January, which sets out an enduring framework and approach to co-operation, partnership and collaboration with the regulator. The MoU is not just a document, but a framework for a new way of working, in which the whole of government will come together to raise information security standards. This demonstrates the strength of our commitment to this agenda and the breadth of action we are taking.

In the session, you also asked for greater clarity on data protection and information security arrangements for digital ID. The scheme will operate to the highest international best practice standards for data security and privacy. Following the announcement, we have been focused on further policy development and expect to consult on the scheme very soon. As part of that consultation, the Government has committed to listening to a range of views on how the service will be delivered.

We will:

- Ensure that the national scheme complies with all data protection legislation, and user privacy will be at the heart of the design of the scheme at every stage of development and delivery.
- Seek advice from the National Cyber Security Centre to inform the establishment of the highest standards of security and to keep pace with the changing threat landscape.
- Comply with all existing data protection legislation and maintain high standards of privacy and data protection.

- Engage with the ICO throughout the process of the digital ID's development, to ensure the digital ID takes a 'privacy by design' approach; and
- Be informed by the Government Digital Services principles for securing personal data in government services, by being designed to accommodate the needs of vulnerable and at-risk individuals.

As discussed during the session, we committed to providing further detail on several points. We have asked Vincent Devine, Government Chief Security Officer, and Aimee Smith, Government Chief Data Officer, to write to you jointly, setting out detailed information on our delivery to date, specifically:

- Outcomes of the 2025 assurance exercise;
- The current thinking about the planned format and content of the annual assurance statement; and
- Further details of our assessment of the Government's legacy IT.

In my capacity as a Home Office Minister, I have also spoken to the Policing Minister about your concerns surrounding the matter of phone theft and organised crime. A further written response will be provided to the Committee shortly alongside information around e-visas and data security.

Yours sincerely,



The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister for Digital Government and Data



Dan Jarvis MBE MP
Security Minister