Q1. What steps need to be taken to ensure that measures taken by the Government to address the COVID-19 pandemic are human rights compliant?

An all-party committee with support of independent legal opinion must review legislation and bring amendments forward to Parliament. These and probably other acts and orders must be reviewed:

- Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984
- Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020
- Coronavirus Act 2020

In addition to the effective sections of the acts and regulation above, the 2020 act’s expiry period must be reduced to 6 months (from 2 years which is far too long) and regulation’s expiry period reduced to 3 months. Where there are sections that currently excluded from expiration, these must also be included for automatic expiration.

The 2020 acts were enacted quickly with minimal Parliamentary scrutiny on the basis that they are necessary and temporary. A partial expiry 2 years after being enacted is not acceptable.

Q2. What will the impact of specific measures taken by Government to address the COVID-19 pandemic be on human rights in the UK?

The measures imposed by the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations and Coronavirus Act 2020 are extreme restrictions on fundamental freedoms imposed in the modern era. They are a disproportionate interference with the rights and freedoms protected by the European Convention on Human Rights and therefore unlawful.

We now all (and especially those of us “outside” of government, not in a government service, not in the armed forces) subject to summary judgement, removal and detention by “authorised persons” and “relevant persons”, without any opportunity to challenge or appeal, and all this is outside of any normal judicial process.

We are now living in a “police state”. This situation must be reversed very quickly.

As UK citizens recover from their fear COVID-19 and become increasingly aware of the injustices of the measures taken by government, respect for official authorities and the rule of law will be undermined. UK citizens on “the outside” will resent those on “the inside” and our society will breakdown into something like Germany between the wars or like countries behind the iron curtain during the cold war period.

Q3. Which groups will be disproportionately affected by measures taken by the Government to address the COVID-19 pandemic?

Everybody in the UK, and particularly everybody who is “outside” of government is affected.

30/04/2020