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Data Protection Bill and Immigration Exemption

Thank you for contacting me about the Data Protection Bill.

The Government has listened to the concerns raised and revised the scope of the immigration exemption in the Data Protection Bill by removing exemptions in relation to the right to rectification and the right to data portability, Articles 16 and 20 respectively of the General Data Protection Regulation.

The Government has also tabled a further amendment to remove the exemption relating to fair and transparent processing at paragraph 4(2)(b) of Schedule 2. The remaining exemptions will ensure that while people's rights relating to data are protected, day to day operations relating to immigration controls are not obstructed, and individual rights are balanced against the wider public interest in maintaining an effective immigration system.

I also welcome the forthcoming publication of detailed and robust guidance on how the exemption may be used in limited circumstances on a case-by-case basis. People will also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner if they disagree with any use of the immigration exemption.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP