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UK Data Liberty - Hang The Politicians **By Jane Bryant** **The One Click Group**



The scandal of the UK Database State has become a General Election issue for everyone of all colours, creed, religion and occupation (1). The vast majority of voters are a unified opposing force against the UK government's data retention policies as the recent Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Poll showed (2).

Together with CCTV cameras monitoring every aspect of our lives more than any other people on earth, these databases have become the corrosive civil liberties canker ravaging the face of Britain.

From the National DNA Database that is currently illegally retaining the DNA of over 900,000 completely innocent people in Britain (3), to the proposed National Identity Register, ContactPoint (national index of all children and their details), the NHS Detailed Care Record, the Common Assessment Framework (that useless database so detested by Social Workers and their families, particularly the disabled), ONSET (the Home Office systems which seek to predict which children will offend in the future) to the Communications Database and other aspects of the Interception Modernisation Programme which will hold everyone's communication traffic data such as itemised phone bills, email headers and mobile phone location history. These are but a few of the databases being inflicted on the British by these politicians like the most virulent privacy cancer devouring our liberties. And all of this without our agreement or consent (4).

The British General Election will soon be upon us. Let's take a look at the political parties' data response.

Gordon Brown and his nasty Labour snoopers created these databases and the dangerous policies attached to them.

David Cameron and the Conservatives have dibbed and dabbed round the rim like frightened quivering rabbits trapped in the civil liberties' headlights, unable to face the blight of these databases head on. Never underestimate the Cameron lack-of-courage wibble wobble factor that is all over the media as I write (5). What the Liberal Democrats think on much is generally incidental. Having the hugely disliked foetus experiments 'Dr Death' Dr Evan Harris

MP as their Science spokesperson on medical policy will always be their forever handicap, with or without database sentiments (6,7).

The UK Labour government has built or extended databases that hold information on every personal aspect of our lives from health and education to welfare, law enforcement and tax. It has been repeatedly challenged by controversies over effectiveness, privacy, legality and cost. Providing the increasing number of civil servants daily access to our personal information has alienated the citizen from the state. Over two-thirds of Britons no longer trust the government with their personal data.

The polls are currently predicting a Hung Parliament. The databases and data retention are an election issue on which all politicians may well hang high, together with their fraudulent expenses (8). Bring it on. Perhaps this predicted vote of no confidence in any particular political party will sufficiently shake up our system to deliver privacy and civil liberty results for the electorate.



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