

To write to your MP

If you are not sure who your MP is, you can find them here on: <https://www.writetothem.com>

It's much more effective to write on paper or email your MP with a personal message, rather than follow a template. But we'll give you some things to think about including to help. Keep it short. 1-2 pages is enough.

We recommend you start by thanking them for the work they do and asking for support.

Step 1: Who are you?

Say who you are and a little about yourself, for example "I've lived in your constituency for five years," or "I'm a teacher who works in your constituency". Are you a parent or do you work or volunteer with children in schools? Are you responsible for Data Protection?

Step 2: Why are you writing to them?

Explain why you are writing. You could say, "I'm writing to you because The Department for Education (DfE) is giving away all our children's personal data from schools without consent to journalists and commercial third parties, and I want that to stop". Or "I am concerned children's privacy and digital identity are at risk".

Step 3: What are you asking them to do?

Ask your MP to call on the Department for Education and government to change policy and practice, to:

1. Make pupil data safe - bring the users to the data, stop sending data to the users.
2. Stop giving individual, confidential, identifiable data to commercial third parties & press without consent.
3. Start telling pupils and parents what the Department does with their identifiable data.

What does this actually mean?

Tell your MP: Other third party organisations should not receive copies of the National Pupil Database.

Tell your MP: The DfE should instead have the data managed in a secure setting with access appropriate to the data's sensitivity and scale for the 20 million individuals whose data these are. And they need to do so in ways which have oversight that is transparent, and with public involvement. These data are with DfE forever.

Tell your MP: How you feel about children's privacy being compromised and not being asked for consent.

Ask your MP: Please can you ask in Parliament: "When will the Department for Education inform schools, pupils' and parents that they give away 20 million children's confidential, sensitive and identifiable personal data, without consent, including to television, newspaper journalists, and other commercial business users?"

Links to our webpage on relevant legislation: <http://defenddigitalme.com/call-to-review-relevant-legislation/> and our Frequently Asked Questions to see the recipients list for example: <http://defenddigitalme.com/faqs/>

Step 4: Why do you think this is important?

Tell them why you are writing and why it matters to you. Are you shocked to find out that journalists are given identifiable children's data from schools by the government? Do you think pupils and parents should know? Show your MP why this is important to you or children as constituents of the MP and why it is important.

Step 5: Ask for a response

Ask your MP to write back, telling you what action they have taken and perhaps if they will ask a question in Parliament, write to The Department or let you know when they get a reply. Finally, thank them for their time.

Step 6: Send your message and keep a copy.

We'd be delighted if you let us know that you have contacted your MP so that we can build up an idea of who and where the campaign has reached. Consider asking friends to do the same or submit a group response.