

# We need protection from terrorism, but pointless laws serve no purpose – Diane Abbott

**Diane Abbott MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary**, responding to comments from the new independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, said:

"This review is welcome. Max Hill makes some good points on removing laws that are never used. We need protection from terrorism, but pointless laws serve no purpose.

"He also highlights the fact certain communities, in particular Muslims, feel unfairly targeted. This will add to wider concerns around the Government's Prevent strategy, which should also be reviewed."

---

## Research and analysis: Identifying where existing EIAs/HRAs can/should inform new assessments

### **Requirement R062**

To categorise assessments submitted as part of a marine licence application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and improve accessibility to these assessments, where appropriate.

Review associated licence conditions and monitoring to ensure consistency of decision making.

#### **Requirement detail**

The MMO requires knowledge of which assessments submitted in support of license applications should and could be made publically available, and how this should be done.

Currently, a significant number of assessments such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA), Water Framework Directive Assessments and Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) assessments are undertaken in English waters to support marine licence decision making.

The MMO also requires a review of the conditions and monitoring used for granting licence applications over time. This is to ensure mitigation

measures are continuing to provide appropriate environmental protection, ensuring the MMO is making evidence based decisions and mitigation is effective, facilitating proportionate evidence requests and improving transparency and access to data. The work should also include a mechanism of iterative review such that MMO could ensure a refresh of advice where necessary.

#### **MMO use**

Marine Licensing: Provide an overview of previous license assessments that might be useful for future applications and licensing decision making and improve discoverability and accessibility to this information

Marine Conservation: Provide information for conducting habitats regulations assessments for European marine sites and impact assessments for management measures for MPAs and understand the effect of new designations and the effectiveness of their management.

#### **External interest**

Natural England, Environment Agency, Cefas, developers, statutory licensing advisors

#### **Delivery target**

2019, Q4

---

## **[Press release: Warning for landowners over dumping illegal waste](#)**

Almost a third (30%) of agricultural businesses and rural land owners across the North East, Yorkshire and Humber have had illegal waste dumped on their land in the last three years, according to new research commissioned by [‘right Waste, right Place’](#).

The research follows a warning from the Environment Agency not to be duped into storing waste on their land after a spate of incidents across the region. Just last month, waste criminals [dumped 600 bales](#) of general waste on private land in Tow Law, County Durham.

Businesses, particularly those in rural areas, are targeted by criminals looking to dispose of waste illegally by dumping it in warehouses, mills and open spaces. These criminals can be persuasive, convincing landowners to give them access to property, which they then fill with waste and abandon, leaving the landowner with an expensive clearance bill.

According to the research, more than half of those in the North East,

Yorkshire and Humber who have been affected by fly-tipping in the last three years disposed of the waste themselves. Just 16 percent called the police.

Jamie Fletcher, Environment Manager at the Environment Agency, said:

Landowners can take steps to protect themselves, such as carrying out suitable checks and due diligence before allowing anyone to use their buildings or property. And if they do fall prey I would urge them to report it.

Waste criminals can cause serious pollution and put communities at risk. The more information we have about these criminals and where the waste comes from, the more likely we can find and prosecute those responsible.

Waste stored inappropriately can create issues for neighbours through smells and pests. It can also have a detrimental effect on the environment and impact on rivers and streams. There is a high risk of waste fires due to the waste not being stored in the correct manner.

The Environment Agency is working with landowners, the fire service, local councils and the Police to ensure the waste is removed safely, minimising the risk of fire and impact on people, and bringing culprits to justice.

Anyone suspicious of any illegal activity, approached to store such waste or currently storing such waste is urged to contact the Environment Agency's 24 hour incident hotline 0800 807060. Alternatively they can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

---

## [These statistics show a worrying increase in both poverty and inequality – Debbie Abrahams](#)

**Debbie**

**Abrahams MP, Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary**, commenting on the Households Below Average Income statistics, said:

"These statistics show a worrying increase in both poverty and inequality. Four million children and two million older people are now living below the breadline. Those living with a disabled person are more likely than ever to be

struggling to make ends meet.

“This is a direct result of this Government’s seven wasted years of austerity and punitive social security cuts.

“The Tories’ shocking failure to tackle the increasing costs of basic essentials, stagnating wages and their ruthless slashing of social security is leaving working families worse off up to 2020.”

“Labour would reverse cuts to in-work support, ban the exploitative zero hours contracts being used on hundreds of thousands of workers, and guarantee a real Living Wage.”

---

## [Tory Government is not doing enough to ensure young people are on the electoral register – Cat Smith](#)

**Cat**

**Smith MP, Labour’s Shadow Minister for Voter Engagement and Youth Affairs,** commenting on today’s Electoral Registration Statistics, said:

“While the increase in electoral registration numbers following the EU referendum is welcome, this Tory Government is still not doing enough to ensure that young people are on the register.

“That is why the Lords voted in favour of a Labour motion to the Higher Education and Research Bill, requiring universities to give students the option to register to vote when they sign up at university.

“If the Tories are serious about making every voice matter they need to keep this sensible addition when the Bill comes back to the Commons.”

**Ends**

**Notes to editors:**

.

The total number of UK parliamentary electors increased by just over 1 million (2.3%) between December 2015 and December 2016, reflecting the high levels of public engagement with the EU referendum. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/elections/electoralregistration/bulletins/electoralstatisticsforuk/2016>

- A study from the Electoral Commission in 2014 found that young people were a particularly under-represented group on the electoral register [http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/169889/Completeness-and-accuracy-of-the-2014-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain.pdf](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/169889/Completeness-and-accuracy-of-the-2014-electoral-registers-in-Great-Britain.pdf)

- Before the Conservatives rushed the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration, students were automatically enrolled by their universities. However, the Electoral Administration Act of 2013 did not provide for a suitable student registration to be put in place when the old system of household registration was abolished.

- On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March the House of Lords voted in favour of Baroness Royall's amendment to the Higher Education and Research Bill. The amendment was passed, defeating the Government, by a majority of 200 to 189. The amendment would require universities to offer students the opportunity to register to vote at the point of enrolment or re-registration as a student at their university, a proposal first made by Paul Blomfield MP in the Commons.