

Labour calls on Government to make taking of “upskirt” photos illegal

Richard

Burgon MP, Labour’s Shadow Justice Secretary, has written to David Lidington MP, the Justice Secretary, to call on the Government to make the taking of “upskirt” photographs a sexual offence in law.

In the letter, Burgon echoes Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Dame Vera Baird’s call for this necessary change and urges the Government to close the current gap in the law that exists.

Full text of the letter from Richard Burgon MP to David Lidington MP

Dear Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor,

I am writing in support of the campaign, started by Gina Martin, to make disgraceful, invasive “upskirting” photographs a sexual offence in law.

The scope for people to take “upskirting” photographs has clearly increased with developments in mobile phone technology since the enactment of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

At present, there is a gap in the law that has allowed – and is continuing to allow – people who have taken such photographs in public places to escape prosecution. This needs to be changed. Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Dame Vera Baird has also made the case for this necessary change.

I believe that in the country there is strong support for Gina Martin’s campaign for this necessary change in the law.

The law must be changed so that women are protected, offenders are punished and potential offenders are deterred.

Given the very welcome public interest in – and support for – this campaign, I have made this letter public, and hope that you will publicly respond very soon with an announcement of plans to change the law so that the taking of “upskirting”

photographs is a sexual offence in law.

Yours
sincerely

Richard
Burton MP

Shadow
Secretary of State for Justice & Shadow Lord Chancellor