
8.5 Securing our rights and freedoms in law

800 years after Magna Carta, the need for written, legal guarantees of our rights and liberties has not gone away. We will:

- ♦ Protect the Human Rights Act and enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in UK law. We will take appropriate action to comply with decisions of UK courts and the European Court of Human Rights.
- ♦ Block any further attempts to limit the right to trial by jury.
- ♦ Pass a new Freedoms Act, to protect citizens from excessive state powers.

Our Freedoms Act will:

- ♦ Tighten the regulation of CCTV, with more powers for the Surveillance Camera Commissioner.
- ♦ Extend the rules governing storage of DNA and fingerprints by public authorities to include all biometric data – like facial images.
- ♦ Protect free speech by ensuring insulting words, jokes, and non-intentional acts, are not treated as criminal, and that social media communications are not treated more harshly than other media.
- ♦ Prevent heavy-handed policing of demonstrations by tightly regulating the use of ‘kettling’.
- ♦ Reform joint enterprise laws.
- ♦ Ban high-frequency Mosquito devices which discriminate against young people.
- ♦ Strengthen safeguards to prevent pre-emptive arrests and misuse of pre-charge bail conditions to restrict civil liberties and stifle peaceful protest.
- ♦ End the Ministerial veto on release of information under the Freedom of Information Act.
- ♦ Cut back on the petty over-regulation of everyday life, like removing licensing requirements for leafleting for community events, liberalising the restrictions on songs and readings at wedding ceremonies, and permitting swimming in open bodies of water.