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Introduction

This document has highlighted the main political parties' proposals from their 2024 General Election manifestos. We have included ORG's commentary on how these proposals could affect rights in the UK. You can link to the full manifestos here:

[Conservative Party manifesto](#)

[Labour Party manifesto](#)

[Lib Dem manifesto](#)

[Reform Party manifesto](#)

[Green Party manifesto](#)

We have also included commentary on policy ideas that have been announced during the election campaign but did not appear in the manifestos. We welcome feedback on our analysis of the parties' proposals and also whether there are other concerns about digital rights that we have missed

Policy and references

Conservatives	Labour	Lib Dems	Reform	Greens	ORG Commentary
Theme: digital and human rights					
Exit European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) if it becomes a problem for UK immigration policy	Retain ECHR	Retain ECHR	Leave the ECHR British laws and judges must never be overruled by a foreign court. We must be free to deport those we consider a threat to our country. UK courts must be able to protect British citizens from EU arrest warrants (p16) A British Bill of Rights Our freedoms must be codified and guaranteed. Our data and privacy must be protected. Surveillance of the public must be limited and those monitoring us held to account.	Elected Greens will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defend the Human Rights Act.• Support continued direct access to ECHR rights in the domestic courts.• Restore legal aid for public law cases so everybody can uphold their rights in court.• Protect the right to religious expression.• Scrap the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, Public Order Act and other legislation that erodes the right to protest and to free expression. The recent rise in Islamophobia and antisemitism highlights the importance of tackling hate crime and opposing divisions in our society. Elected Greens will support the right to religious expression and work with religious communities to defend the safety of places of worship. We will also scrap Prevent. (p34)	Politicians who care about ordinary people should protect their human rights not take them away. The ECHR protects everyone in the UK. It enabled ORG to take the UK government to court over its bulk surveillance of all of our communications. Politicians who attack the ECHR want to remove safeguards that protect us from human rights abuses. The UK should be proud of our role in drafting this vital framework for our rights. It is unclear why a British Bill of Rights would be different from the current Human Rights Act and ECHR. On the other hand, removing the possibility to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights would significantly lower human rights protections in the UK: the ECtHR is an international court and thus able to ensure scrutiny in the event of a constitutional crisis, or to step in when our domestic institutions fail to address human rights violations.

Introducing a Digital Bill of Rights to protect everyone's rights online, including the rights to privacy, free expression, and participation without being subjected to harassment and abuse.

Reform UK also opposes the Creation of a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

We oppose a cashless society.

Replace the 2010 Equalities Act

The Equalities Act requires discrimination in the name of 'positive action'. We will scrap Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DE&I) rules that have lowered standards and reduced economic productivity.

Propose a Comprehensive Free Speech Bill

Legislate to stop left-wing bias and politically correct ideology that threatens personal freedom and democracy. No more de-banking, cancel culture, left wing hate mobs or political bias in public institutions. (p22)

Pass a comprehensive 'Anti-SLAPP Law' to provide robust protection for free speech, whistleblowers and media scrutiny against Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation.

Support the BBC both to provide impartial news and information, and to take a leading role in increasing media literacy and educating all generations in tackling the impact of fake news.

Introduce a Digital Bill of Rights that establishes the UK as a leading voice on standards for the rule of law and democracy in digital spaces. (p37)

Digital rights (p38)

Elected Greens would push to establish the UK as a leading voice on standards for the rule of law and democracy in digital spaces with a Digital Bill of Rights to ensure independent regulation of social media providers. This legislation will safeguard elections by responding to the challenges of foreign interference, social media and declining confidence in democracy.

The Digital Bill of Rights will give the public greater control over their data, ensuring UK data protection is as strong as any other regulatory regime. Given the complexity of this legislation, elected Greens will push for the Bill to be developed through a broad and inclusive public conversation.

The Government has, by statutory instrument under the REUL act, removed references to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and replaced them with the European Convention of Human Rights. However, the ECHR does not recognise a full right to data protection and its scope covers primarily state interferences with democratic rights, not the private sector. These are good reasons to support the introduction of a Digital Bill of Rights, with the aim of filling the gap that was left by the REUL act in domestic law.

The Equalities Act is a cornerstone of rights enforcement in the UK. Balancing free expression with specific impacts is the job of the courts, backed by human rights law. Free speech does not triumph all other considerations, and it does not represent a right to threaten or incite hatred.

Specifically, lawyers and others engaging in frivolous claims of defamation or copyright infringement need to face penalties, in order to disincentivise incorrect, baseless claims.

Public broadcasters have always been a fundamental safeguard for media pluralism and against market concentration. The UK should leverage on the BBC as an institution to promote social media pluralism, for instance by funding the full adoption and deployment of BBC-owned federated social media platform such as Mastodon.

Theme: digital economy and AI regulation

Tech infrastructure

End frivolous legal challenges that frustrate infrastructure delivery by amending the law so judicial reviews that don't have

Financial services are one of Britain's greatest success stories. Labour will create the conditions to support innovation and growth in the sector, through supporting

Empower consumers and ensure that everyone can enjoy the benefits of new technology, by setting a UK-wide target for digital literacy and requiring all products to provide a

Legislate to scrap EU Regulations with immediate effect. British Laws on State Aid, Competition, Employment and

Labour's goal of "innovation and growth in the sector, through supporting new technology" is a very broad statement and Labour must ask how it will reflect on the use of automated decisions and especially AI in scoring systems, credits and risk assessments, and

merit do not waste court time (p9)

new technology, including Open Banking and Open Finance and ensuring a pro-innovation regulatory framework (p28)

Labour will make a renewed push to fulfil the ambition of full gigabit and national 5G coverage by 2030. (p32)

short, clear version of their terms and conditions, setting out the key facts as they relate to individuals' data and privacy. (p14)

the environment are still based on EU regulations. Nor have we reversed EU Net Zero laws which are sabotaging our economy.

other areas where privacy may be violated, and ensure that, at bare minimum, an explanation can be given for any decisions.

Interoperability of products by competing business, to allow customers to move their data and use different services, is highlighted by Labour with the Open Banking and Open Finance initiatives, this approach being one of the Conservative and Lib Dem coalition's early successes.. This is a very good idea to reduce lock in of customers to particular business. By opening the door to data access and sharing, this can be used by new entrants to compete and provide new services for consumers, or by incumbents to exploit access to smaller platforms' customers and data. I has some potential to concentrate even more power into successful businesses' hands. It certainly increases the risks for consumers whose data is moved from service to service. Strong data protection standards are therefore absolutely necessary to ensure data access and sharing is performed only for interoperability purposes.

Theme: Artificial Intelligence

Continue investing over £1.5 billion in large-scale compute clusters, assembling the raw processing power so we can take advantage of the potential of AI and support research into its safe and responsible use. (p9)

We will ensure our industrial strategy supports the development of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector, removes planning barriers to new datacentres. And we will create a National Data Library to bring together existing research programmes and help deliver data-driven public services, whilst maintaining strong safeguards and ensuring all of the public benefit. (p35)

Regulators are currently ill-equipped to deal with the dramatic development of new technologies, which often cut across traditional industries and sectors. Labour will create a new Regulatory Innovation Office, bringing together existing functions across government. This office will help regulators update regulation, speed up approval timelines, and co-ordinate issues that span existing boundaries. Labour will ensure the safe development and use of AI

BUSINESS & JOBS (p17) We will make the UK a world leader in ethical, inclusive new technology, including artificial intelligence, and a global centre for the development, manufacture and export of clean technologies. (p18)

Create a clear, workable and well-resourced cross-sectoral regulatory framework for artificial intelligence that:

Promotes innovation while creating certainty for AI users, developers and investors.

Establishes transparency and accountability for AI systems in the public sector.

Ensures the use of personal data and AI is unbiased, transparent and accurate, and respects the privacy of innocent people. (p20)

Negotiate the UK's participation in the Trade and Technology Council

The rise of AI is transforming many industries and has enormous potential for good, when well regulated.

Elected Greens will push for a precautionary regulatory approach to the harms and risk of AI. We would align the UK approach with our neighbours in Europe, UNESCO and global efforts to support a coordinated response to future risks of AI.

We will also aim to secure equitable access to any socially and environmentally responsible benefits these technologies can bring, at the same time as addressing any bias, discrimination, equality, liberty or privacy issues arising from the use of AI.

We would insist on the protection of the Intellectual Property of artists, writers and musicians and other creators. We would ensure that AI does not erode the value of human creativity and that workers' rights and interests are respected when AI leads to significant changes in working conditions.

Investment in AI without legislation to safeguard against harms is irresponsible and dangerous. AI can magnify discrimination in society so the expansion of AI without regulation risks exacerbating inequities. This is particularly important for law enforcement and immigration contexts which are prone to fundamental rights violations.

The AI strategy developed by the Conservative government revolved around deregulation and, with the DPDI Bill, aimed at shifting the impact of bad AI outcomes onto the victims rather than on the perpetrators. Regulation that establishes safeguards and protection for individuals, and ensures accountability for organisations, is necessary to ensure the benefits of AI can be realised: otherwise, companies will take the tried, tested and failed policy of moving fast and breaking things, while leaving us to pick up the pieces. At a bare minimum, legislation should: extend the Article 22 GDPR right not to be subject to automated decision making to decisions which are partly automated; ensure workers are consulted before the deployment of new technologies in the workplace; and fill gaps in regulation.

Legislation should prohibit the most harmful uses of AI, particularly in law enforcement and immigration

models by introducing binding regulation on the handful of companies developing the most powerful AI models and by banning the creation of sexually explicit deepfakes. (p35)

with the US and the EU, so we can play a leading role in global AI regulation, and work with international partners in agreeing common standards for AI risk and impact assessment, testing, monitoring and audit.(p20)

'Gig economy' workers – like those working for Uber and Deliveroo – are excluded from fundamental workers' rights. Every worker deserves equal protection. We will bring platform workers under a single legal status of 'worker', with full and equal rights from the first day of employment. Every worker will have a right to access their data and to appeal management decisions. Gig employers that repeatedly breach data protection, employment or tax law will be denied licences to operate. P17-18

settings where AI poses a particularly high risk to people's rights. Regulation should be underpinned by a framework of transparency, accountability, accessibility and redress. Research into safe and responsible use seems a very minimal approach.

Workers should also have the right to refuse ADM and to be consulted when new AI or monitoring tools are introduced at work. (see above)

Most gig delivery workers are migrants, and tech companies like Uber and Deliveroo are misusing their data, so it's good to highlight this point alongside the risk of using surveillance tools to monitor the drivers efficiency.

Theme: online safety and children

We will put our guidance on banning mobile phones in the school day on a statutory footing which will require all schools to operate a ban, as the best schools already do. We will provide funding for schools to help them ban mobile phones where they need it.

We will urgently consult on introducing further parental controls over access to social media.

We know this is a complex area and we need more effective age verification and parental controls. That's why we will consult widely to get this right, including developing the necessary technology, in partnership with other countries who are considering similar measures. We expect to build on the existing responsibilities set out for social media companies under the

Children and young people face significant harm online, with inappropriate content too easily available at their fingertips on a smartphone. We have seen an increase in extreme misogynistic content online driving a culture of violence against women. Labour will build on the Online Safety Act, bringing forward provisions as quickly as possible, and explore further measures to keep everyone safe online, particularly when using social media. We will also give coroners more powers to access information held by technology companies after a child's death. (p103)

Labour will improve data sharing across services, with a single unique identifier, to better support children and families.

Require social media companies to publish reports setting out the action they have taken to address online abuse against women and girls, and other groups who share a protected characteristic.

Cut funding to universities that undermine free speech. The government's Free Speech Act is toothless. Allowing political bias or cancel culture must face heavy financial penalties. (p11)

Promote child friendly app restricted smartphones (p16)
Social media is associated with eating disorders, anxiety, depression, suicide and the child mental health crisis. Launch an inquiry into social media harms. Thereafter:
Review the Online Safety Bill
Social media giants that push baseless transgender ideology and divisive Critical Race theory should have no role in regulating free speech.

Retain a full, evidence-based and age-appropriate programme of Relationships, Sex and Health Education, including LGBTIQ+ content and resources. (p30)

Children should be encouraged to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and privacy, and restrictions to these rights should be minimised.

We note that most schools already ban mobile use during the day.

The Online Safety Act remains in our view a deeply problematic piece of legislation, that places the burden of deciding what is legal or illegal onto content providers, without reference to courts, or even sufficiently developed internal appeals systems. It currently creates an incentive for content removal but not for accuracy. Perhaps worse, it is pushing forward measures that could endanger encrypted messaging platforms, as well as age verification and assurance without addressing the underlying privacy risks, instead relying on data protection law to provide safeguards. Yet we know UK data protection to be poorly enforced. To address Online Safety, we need to look at why platforms are failing, which everyone recognises to be the lack of customer agency. We are faced with an ad driven "attention market" where we are the "product, not the customer. Measures to rein in online ad profiling, and to open up the companies to direct competition are much more likely to address the underlying problems that the market currently incentivises the promotion of material that provokes and outrages, while having insufficient incentive to

Online Safety Act. (p19)

We will work to strengthen the relationship between schools and parents, including by delivering new legislation which will make clear, beyond all doubt, that parents have a right to see what their child is being taught in school and schools must share all materials, especially on sensitive matters like relationships and sex education. This builds on the progress we have already made, having updated Relationships, Sex and Health Education Guidance to introduce clear age-limits on what children can be taught and guarantee the contested concept of gender identity is not taught to children. (p27)

ensure customers do not leave, as they are already captured. Labour must look to competition policy and data protection, while being judicious in what it does next in the area of content regulation, which is symptom rather than cause of a dysfunctional social media market.

It is also the case that content regulation is at risk of removing content from communities at risk, such as the LGBTQ+ community, and those using minority languages or having minority political positions. The OSA is also capable of being abused to target political content; this appeared to be likely during the recent debates around the kinds of protest and symbols deployed by protesters supporting Palestine and protesting against the actions of the Israeli military in Gaza.

The parties generally make little mention of teaching children how to navigate the digital world safely. Conservative proposals could undermine teaching children about pornography or other adult content that they might encounter online.

Labour's proposals for a unique identifier should not enable the introduction of digital ID cards by the backdoor.

Theme: crime and fraud

To deliver further savings, we will maintain our zero-tolerance approach to fraud. This will include a new Fraud Bill to give DWP powers similar to that of HMRC, so we can treat benefit fraud like we do tax fraud with new powers to identify, investigate and pursue fraudsters. (p23)

Labour will introduce a new expanded fraud strategy to tackle the full range of threats, including online, public sector and serious fraud. We will work with technology companies to stop their platforms being exploited by fraudsters. Criminals never stop looking for new ways to target victims. Police must change the way they operate too, with technology and investigative techniques keeping pace with modern threats. We will work with national policing bodies and police staff to standardise approaches to procurement, IT, professional standards and training. And we will for too long violence against women and girls has been ignored.

A new data strategy across the criminal justice system to ensure that capacity meets demand, and to understand the needs of all users, especially victims, vulnerable people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds. (p57)

Improve transparency by 'enabling all victims to request a transcript of court proceedings free of charge' (p58) restore 'direct, real-time access for UK police to EU-wide data sharing systems to identify and arrest traffickers, terrorists and other international criminals'

Stop Benefit Fraud. Overhaul anti-fraud practices to ensure the Department for Work and Pensions cut fraudulent benefit claims to negligible levels. (p15)

The approach of more policing, using technology and IT, is deeply problematic; from previous and current experience. Technology based on data and judgements can be biased, and often involve the targeting of marginalised groups through inappropriate data sharing. The solutions should not come from more policing and the use of technology in policing as a first resort.

Online fraud is a welcome area for attention, but we warn that attempts to push this onto platforms to fix the problems are frequently problematic, not least because criminals will only be removed, not identified and prosecuted, by platforms. Investigations need to be carried out by police.

We also note the problematic nature of online security failures being exploited by criminals through "zero days" that are in fact known to GCHQ and the NSA. While the National Cybersecurity Centre remains part of GCHQ, there will always be the suspicion that

<p>Back the police, by giving officers new powers and tools to catch criminals, including technology like facial recognition and powers to seize knives and track down stolen property. We will always back the police in the lawful and</p>	<p>We will use every government tool to target perpetrators and address the root causes of abuse and violence</p> <p>... including more police and new Respect orders (renamed ASBos) pp63-66</p> <p>To get knives off our streets Labour will ban ninja swords, lethal zombie- style blades and machetes, and strengthen rules to</p>	<p>Halting the use of facial recognition surveillance, which is most likely to wrongly identify black people and women.</p> <p>Scrap the draconian anti-protest laws, restoring pre-existing protections for both peaceful</p>	<p>Clampdown on all crime and antisocial behaviour. Increase Stop and Search substantially.</p> <p>Common Sense Policing not 'Woke' Policing Scrap all Diversity, Equality</p>	<p>We believe in policing by consent, but this can only work if the police can rebuild trust with the communities they serve. Police Services need to acknowledge the institutional racism, misogyny, homophobia and disablism that have dominated policing for so long. They must root out any officers who hold views</p>	<p>security failures that are being used to access third party systems for surveillance will be hushed up, placing systems at risk.</p> <p>We further note that ubiquitous software owned by monopoly providers such as Microsoft and Windows can place the UK's public sector in a very dependent situation, where security failures cannot always be properly managed, placing public organisations at risk of blackmail and data exfiltration. The balance of risks is currently weighed by the private provider, regardless of the actual consequence to their UK customers. Security maintenance is a cost and competes against feature provision. This is particularly problematic where providers break into new markets, like cloud and AI, and believe that acquisition of market share outweighs security concerns ("move fast and break things", in this case security).</p> <p>We also note the need to ensure that Open Source systems are properly supported for security maintenance. Where government uses Open Source products, it should also ensure that investment flows back into security and code maintenance.</p> <p>Disproportionate and unaccountable surveillance and access to data by Government agencies represents the most problematic barrier to the free flow of data between jurisdictions. In the UK, the illegality of the Investigatory Power Act was never fully addressed, and keeps exposing the country to the risk of being geofenced by foreign jurisdictions. Following the dismissal of the DPDI Bill, the IPA also represents the most significant threat to UK adequacy. A reform that ensures surveillance is carried out in a targeted and proportionate way that aligns with commitment in the OECD declaration over Government access to private data held by private sector entities is much, much needed.</p> <p>It is useful to see some discussion of restorative justice and decriminalisation of drugs, Stop and search, and finger print and Facial Recognition to end targeting migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers by these measures.</p> <p>Predictive policing tools, such as facial recognition and those which use data and algorithms should be banned.</p> <p>Governments have in recent years created ASBOs, "Knife Crime Prevention Orders," "Criminal Behaviour Orders" and now the Labour party is proposing "Respect Orders" seemingly to rebrand ASBOs. These</p>
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professional use of force, alongside a fair and proportionate accountability system. (p44) We will foster greater collaboration between the National Crime Agency and Counter Terrorism Policing. (p44) We will legislate to create new offences for spiking, the creation of sexualised deepfake images and taking intimate images without consent. (p44)

prevent online sales. Executives of online companies that flout these rules will be personally held to account through tough sanctions. (p66)

Domestic violence: With Labour, there will be specialist rape and sexual offences teams in every police force. The most prolific and harmful perpetrators will be relentlessly targeted, using tactics normally reserved for terrorists and organised crime (p67) Violence and abuse against women and girls does not come from nowhere. Misogyny is one root cause, and therefore Labour will ensure schools address misogyny and teach young people about healthy relationships and consent. We will ensure police forces have the powers they need to track and tackle the problem. Stalking has not been treated with the seriousness it deserves. Labour will strengthen the use of Stalking Protection Orders and give women the right to know the identity of online stalkers. (p68)

assembly and public safety, and immediately halt the use of live facial recognition surveillance by the police and private companies.

and Inclusion (DE&I) roles and regulations to stop two-tier policing. Overhaul the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IOPC) so that the police complaints system becomes more accountable and works for the law-abiding public.

De-Politicise the College of Policing
Prioritise crime prevention, discipline, public service and high standards of strength and fitness among trainees. Replace degree-standard entry with an entrance exam. Require officers to complete a 2-year probationary period. Stricter entry requirements.

Change the Definition of Hate Crime. The CPS and police definition of a hate crime has led to systemic bias. Members of the British public must not be investigated because 'any' person 'perceives' that a hate crime has been committed.

incompatible with serving as a police officer.

Many communities, especially Black communities, are disillusioned with the police after experiencing decades of disproportionate policing and traumatising tactics like stop and search and the use of force. Rebuilding trust and confidence and earning the consent of communities to being policed is critical for the future of policing.

Police Services should be accountable to elected local government and to the communities where they work.

Elected Greens will push for:

- An end to the routine use of stop and search and to the use of facial recognition software.
- Police Services to deliver ongoing fitness to practice assessments on diversity for all police officers and relevant civilian staff.
- Police and Crime Commissioners, and local councillors on police and crime panels, to have open access to the data needed to enable effective scrutiny of operational policing

We will also scrap Prevent. (p34)

have the tendency to institutionlise a form of pre-criminality, focusing on those who society and our institutions have failed, rather than addressing the root causes of crime. Parliament needs to invest in services, infrastructure and community support. Young people impacted by violence need support, not criminalisation and data profiling.

Police already have extensive powers which have enabled a culture of impunity and institutional racism. Instead of emboldening the police with ever-more powers and technologies, the next government should prioritise spending on community health, services and infrastructure – investments known to help prevent crime in the first place.

Data sharing between public authorities, private actors and law enforcement should be restricted to ensure the right to privacy and other fundamental rights are protected.

Regarding domestic violence, it's essential to ensure there are firewalls to prevent data sharing between the reporting of domestic violence and the Home Office. Many women may be deterred from reporting the violence for fear of sharing their data with Home Office, as there are many groups within our society where trust of the Home Office has long been lost, or the Home Office poses an active risk to them.

Strong language on crime belies that several areas of UK digital policy risk causing new crime. Plans to break encryption that are now backed by several different UK laws would expose the entire British population to risks of fraud and exploitation by cybercriminals. Likewise, forcing every Internet User to age-very online inherently nudges people to develop bad habits, such as handing over sensitive documents, financial information or passwords to third-party identity providers—a perfect environment for fraudsters and scammers. Parliament needs to repeal sections of the Online Safety Act that would allow Ofcom to break or circumvent encryption, and to remove age or identity-verification requirements

It is good to see the Greens calling for Prevent to be scrapped. ORG recently raised concerns regarding data sharing in Prevent leading to unfair profiling of innocent individuals.

Theme: national security and counter-terrorism

We will strengthen police powers to prevent protests or marches that pose a risk of serious disorder, by allowing police to take into account the cumulative impact of protests. We will ban protests outside schools to stop mobs from intimidating teachers and children. We will always support teachers to uphold and promote fundamental British values and ensure they are protected from accusations of blasphemy.

We will place a duty on the police and prosecutors to publish regular guidance on the statements, chants or symbols, for example, the swastika or the term 'jihad', that in the context of political protest may constitute an offence. We will explore ways for the police to recover some of the costs of policing disruptive protests from the groups that organise

To ensure the UK is fully prepared to deal with these interconnected threats, Labour will conduct a Strategic Defence Review within our first year in government, and we will set out the path to spending 25 per cent of GDP on defence

We will update the rules around counter- extremism, including online, to stop people being radicalised and drawn towards hateful ideologies. Labour will also ensure the police and intelligence services have the powers and resources they need to protect the British people from terrorism and hostile espionage. (p15)

Ending the bulk collection of communications data and internet connection records. Introducing a legally binding regulatory framework for all forms of biometric surveillance.

Disproportionate and unaccountable surveillance and access to data by Government agencies represents the most problematic barrier to the free flow of data between different countries. In the UK, the illegality of the Investigatory Power Act was never fully addressed, and keeps exposing the country to the risk of being geofenced by foreign jurisdictions. Following the dismissal of the DPDI Bill, the IPA now represents the most significant threat to UK adequacy. The IPA needs to be reformed to end the bulk collection of communications data and internet connection records, and ensure that access to data is aligned with commitment in the OECD declaration over Government access to private data held by private sector entities.

A regulatory framework for all forms of biometric surveillance is a good suggestion. We would want to see the detail to ensure the regulation was safeguarding against harms and protecting rights, rather than cutting red tape.

National security is an area of policy that is both important for the preservation of our democracy and has the potential to undermine fundamental rights. Unfortunately, both Labour and Conservative governments have had a poor track record of making a good balance. Measures should not come with the cost of violating the less fortunate's privacy and freedom of expression rights, including minoritised communities, migrants and refugees.

It's unclear if the Strategic Defence Review would cover the role of the intelligence agencies, but the proposed updates to counter-terrorism policy are likely to raise human rights concerns. Given the recent dangerous rhetoric around extremism from the Conservatives, it's disappointing that there's nothing here to suggest a Labour government will protect free speech and ensure the language of "extremism" is not weaponised against marginalised communities. This is particularly relevant for the Prevent programme where the definition of extremism is used to operationalise the programme while children make up the majority of referrals.

The lack of transparency and proportionality in public surveillance programmes is the single most impacting issue on digital trade and data flows: countries around the world are taking measures to limit data transfers to those countries that do not provide adequate rule of

them. We will also ensure our elected representatives get the protection needed to represent their constituents without fear. Abuse or discrimination based on religion is unacceptable. We will not tolerate antisemitic hatred in any form. We have pledged £54 million for the Community Security Trust to give Jewish schools and synagogues the security measures they need and allocated additional funding to support schools and universities to understand, recognise and tackle antisemitism. We will get the UK Holocaust Memorial built. We do not tolerate anti-Muslim hatred and will seek to stamp it out wherever it occurs. We have committed to provide £117 million over four years for the Protective Security for Mosques scheme and are proud to support and help fund Tell MAMA's vital work. (p46)

law standards or meaningful judicial oversight. This does not appear to be recognised, but could cause problems for the UK and EU / US digital trade in years to come.

Theme: immigration and digital technology

Stop the boats by removing illegal migrants to Rwanda. (p4)
Work with other countries to rewrite asylum treaties to make them fit for the challenges we face.(p4)

Establish a deterrent. We will run a relentless, continual process of permanently removing illegal migrants to Rwanda with a regular rhythm of flights every month, starting this July, until the boats are stopped. If we are forced to choose between our security and the jurisdiction of a foreign court, including the ECtHR, we will always choose our security. (p36)

We will create a new Border Security Command, with hundreds of new investigators, intelligence officers, and cross-border police officers.

This new Command will work internationally and be supported by new counter-terrorism style powers, to pursue, disrupt, and arrest those responsible for the vile trade. We will seek a new security agreement with the EU to ensure access to real-time intelligence and enable our policing teams (p17)

Labour will set up a new returns and enforcement unit, with an additional 1,000 staff, to fast-track

Ending the Conservatives' Hostile Environment, implementing the Windrush Lessons Learned Review and repealing the Conservatives' discriminatory 'Right to Rent' law, as set out in chapter 18.

End the Conservatives' Hostile Environment and invest instead in officers, training and technology to tackle smuggling, trafficking and modern slavery. Transfer policy-making over work visas and overseas students out of the Home Office and into other departments.

Firewall to prevent public agencies sharing personal info with Home Office for immigration enforcement,

Freeze Non-Essential Immigration
Strict limits on immigration are the only way to relieve the pressure on our housing, public services, increase wages and protect our culture, identity and values. Essential skills, mainly around healthcare, must be the only exception. (p3)

Stop the Boats with our 4 Point Plan
Leave the European Convention on Human Rights.
Zero illegal immigrants to be resettled in the UK.
New Department of

Elected Greens will push for:

- An end to the hostile environment.
- An end to the minimum income requirements for spouses of those holding work visas.
- Safe routes to sanctuary for those fleeing danger, persecution and war. (p35)

Asylum and protection

No one becomes a refugee lightly. People leave their homes, friends and often their family because they are forced to do so through circumstances that are intolerable.

The Green Party acknowledges the right to claim asylum, in any country, as set out in the United Nations Universal Declaration

It is good to see repeal of the Immigration Exemption highlighted by the Lib Dems.

We have already seen the harmful impact data sharing with border officials is having on people's lives through Schedule 7 powers which enables police to stop, search, question and detain people without the need for reasonable suspicion. Labour's approach to borders has the potential to further undermine the right to be presumed innocent, the right to privacy and as with current counter-terrorism powers, Muslims, migrants and racialised communities are likely to be disproportionately impacted.

Labour's plans for EU security deals and data sharing for refugees and asylum seekers has significant privacy implications. Regulatory divergence from the EU data protection standards would make it more difficult, if not impossible, for the UK to establish closer cooperation with the EU on migration: data sharing for

<p>Crack down on organised immigration crime, including through the National Crime Agency and our intelligence services, to disrupt supply chains and tackle people smugglers.(p36)</p> <p>Reform asylum rules, holding an international summit and working with other countries to reform international laws to make them fit for an age of mass migration. We will restrict visa access from countries that don't work with us on our national priorities, like illegal migration. (p36)</p>	<p>removals to safe countries for people who do not have the right to stay here. We will negotiate additional returns arrangements to speed up returns and increase the number of safe countries that failed asylum seekers can swiftly be sent back to. (p17)</p>	<p>repeal immig exemption in Data Protection Act (p90)</p>	<p>Immigration. Pick up illegal migrants out of boats and take them back to France. Secure Detention for all Illegal Migrants All asylum seekers that arrive illegally from safe countries will be processed rapidly, offshore if necessary. Those entering from a safe country will also be barred from claiming asylum or citizenship. No legal aid for non-citizens. Those rejected will be returned. Immediate Deportation for Foreign Criminals Deport foreign nationals immediately after their prison sentence ends. Withdraw citizenship from immigrants who commit crime with the exception of some misdemeanour offences. Bar Student Dependents Introduce new visa rules for international students that bar dependents. Only international students with essential skills can remain in the UK. Close down fake courses and immigration schemes that abuse the rules. Stop Health Tourism and Immediate Access to Benefits We will impose a requirement of 5 years residency and employment to claim any benefits in the UK. Employer Immigration Tax The National Insurance rate will be raised to 20% for foreign workers. This would incentivise businesses to employ British citizens whose National Insurance rate would stay at 13.8%. Essential foreign health and care workers</p>	<p>of Human Rights. Elected Greens will campaign for a system of asylum and humanitarian protection that treats the applicant fairly, humanely and without discrimination.</p> <p>Elected Greens will push for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Kingdom to work with other countries to establish safe routes by which those fleeing persecution, war, or climate disaster may arrive in the country of their choice to make their case without having to risk their lives. • A fast and fair process to assess asylum applications. • Those seeking asylum and protection to be permitted to work while their application is being decided. <p>Ending the hostile environment</p> <p>The hostile environment approach has not only been found at times to be unlawful, it has caused immense suffering for those who have been caught up in it, including the Windrush generation.</p> <p>Green MPs would campaign to abolish the No Recourse to Public Funds condition that exacerbates social, economic, and racial inequalities.</p> <p>We would also campaign to abolish the ten-year route to settlement which unfairly traps people in poverty and hardship.</p> <p>We believe that migration is not a criminal offence under any circumstances and that there should be an end to immigration detention for all migrants unless they are a danger to public safety.</p> <p>All visa-holding residents should have the right to vote in all elections and referendums.</p> <p>Fixing a broken system (p36)</p> <p>We will push to dismantle the dysfunctional Home Office and create a new Department of Migration alongside a</p>	<p>border control management requires the free flow of data to and from the EU.</p> <p>Even assuming these can deals can be completed, the EU is not providing best practice in migration and border policy. There are some very difficult examples where the EU has member states that may themselves not currently be capable of upholding the rule of law, for instance Hungary. Rather than simply rejoining a problematic system, the UK should be aiming to ensure that data sharing respects the privacy rights for migrants and refugees and tightens the conditions of any international data sharing.</p> <p>The Labour policy on Swift returns and a new returns and enforcement unit has the potential to impact privacy of people whose status is processed, including handling of data by the UK other countries. Over-reliance on data in this area can be problematic, as migrants do not always have complete digital or paper records, and UK data may also be misleading. Swiftness could add to the danger of poor decisions based on poor data. Fairness has to be central to any proposal.</p> <p>While the Conservatives do not explicitly say that the Conservatives would withdrawal from the ECHR it implies it may do if their legislation is frustrated. Of course, the ECHR is not a 'foreign court'. It's an international court.</p> <p>Elsewhere in the manifesto the Conservatives specifically call out Russia and Belarus regarding human rights – these are the two European non signatories to the ECHR, Russia having withdrawn in 2022¹ while Belarus has never been a member as an independent state.²</p> <p>The NCA and intelligence service proposals are vague but could result in people who help migrants being treated as people smugglers or terrorists, as the powers would result in the investigation and retention of information about individuals, not just criminals.</p> <p>The Lib Dem suggestion of a "firewall" should, at a bare minimum, introduce a test to avoid data being shared with law enforcement or immigration control officials if this would disproportionately affect other fundamental rights, such as the right to life (e.g. receiving medical attention), support for victims of crime, etc.</p>
1	https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russian-parliament-votes-exit-european-court-human-rights-2022-06-07/				
2	https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/app/conversion/pdf/?library=ECHR&id=003-7264687-9892524&filename=Update%20on%20interim%20decisions%20concerning%20member%20States%E2%80%99%20borders%20with%20Belarus.pdf				

Theme: tech and the NHS

We will invest £3.4 billion in new technology to transform the NHS for staff and for patients. The NHS Productivity Plan will see NHS productivity grow by 1.9% a year from 2025-26 – unlocking £35 billion of cumulative savings by the end of the decade. We will:

Make the NHS App the single front door for NHS services. Patients will use the App to access their medical records, order prescriptions, book vaccine appointments, access a digital red book and manage their hospital appointments.

Use AI to free up doctors’ and nurses’ time for frontline patient care.

Replace tens of thousands of outdated computers, slashing the 13 million hours in doctors’ and nurses’ time lost to IT issues every year and digitise NHS processes through the Federated Data Platform.

Fund technology to help clinicians read MRI and CT scans more quickly and accurately, speeding up results for 130,000 patients every year.

Create new incentives for improved performance, rewarding the best performing providers of care. (p41)

The revolution taking place in data and life sciences has the potential to transform our nation’s healthcare. The Covid-19 pandemic showed how a strong mission-driven industrial strategy, involving government partnering with industry and academia, could turn the tide on a pandemic. This is the approach we will take in government. As part of a life sciences plan, we will develop an NHS innovation and adoption strategy in England. This will include a plan for procurement, giving a clearer route to get products into the NHS, coupled with reformed incentive structures to drive innovation and faster regulatory approval for new technology and medicines.

Labour will therefore transform the NHS app, putting patients in control of their own health to better manage their medicine, appointments, and health needs. This will include giving performance information on local services, and notifications of vaccinations and health checks. Patients will be able to see the medical guidelines for the treatment they should get, to hold health services to account and understand what their choices are. (pp97-98)

Labour will digitise the Red Book record of children’s health, improving support for new families. (p98)

Patients Charter to include patient voice and ‘Protecting patient data and patients’ rights to opt out of data sharing’ Harness new tech/digital tools inc interoperability of IT systems and every care setting has electronic records which can feed into patient record (p35)

We must be wary of tech being presented as a “silver bullet” to health and social problems. A new app won’t address NHS workforce shortages, retention and working conditions – but investment in nurses pay, NHS working conditions and career pathways into the NHS can.

We would like to know Labour’s position regarding Palantir and other large corporations, who will seek to exploit the NHS’s rich datasets while also creating long term dependency of the NHS on their proprietary systems. There are significant risks that the NHS becomes locked into a small set of providers who do not provide value for money. Given limited funds, the desperate situation in the NHS and Labour’s poor record in IT procurement under the Blair government, we think there is a very significant risk of health and other public services seeing new AI and similar technologies being brought in but providing little or no real benefit. The roots of the Post Office Horizon scandal in Conservative and Labour IT projects of the 1990s should be remembered as an object lesson in how tech modernisation can go wrong; as AI often is used to make calculated judgements about people, the risks should be obvious.

Trust is the pivotal currency that will determine the success of any digital initiative carried out by the Labour Party in the NHS or public health programmes. As pointed out by the National Data Guardian, trust is at an all-time low in the UK and has already resulted in important data-gathering initiatives being derailed due to failures to address public concerns. The use of data for research purposes cannot come at cost of safeguards for individuals or by removing their right to consent to such uses of health data. Likewise, the Labour Party needs to provide guarantees against the commercial exploitation of health and research data for non-medical reasons. Finally, the Labour Party could draw inspiration from the EU, where regulation has introduced “enhanced data protection rights” (thus stronger than those provided by the EU GDPR) as a baseline to establish the European Health Data Space.

Theme: environmental tech

Mandate water companies to publish accessible real-time data on any

20 miles per hour to be the default speed limit on roads in all built-up areas, allowing

There are questions about whether the Green Party’s suggestions would need increased surveillance to

sewage they dump (p62)

children, the elderly and disabled people to walk and wheel safely.

A frequent-flyer levy to reduce the impact of the 15% of people who take 70% of flights. (p32)

implement them. Care needs to be applied to environmental monitoring of individuals to ensure that they do not become mass, population level tracking technologies.

Open Data duties for the private sector when performing public duties as suggested here by the Lib Dems would be a welcome development, as it is an idea that can be extended elsewhere.

Theme: political reform

Labour will support an immediate ban on MPs from taking up paid advisory or consultancy roles. We will task the Modernisation Committee to take forward urgent work on the restrictions that need to be put in place to prevent MPs from taking up roles that stop them serving their constituents and the country. (p107)

House of Lords:

The next Labour government will therefore bring about an immediate modernisation, by introducing legislation to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. Labour will also introduce a mandatory retirement age. At the end of the Parliament in which a member reaches 80 years of age, they will be required to retire from the House of Lords. Labour will ensure all peers meet the high standards the public expect of them, and we will introduce a new participation requirement as well as strengthening the circumstances in which disgraced members can be removed. We will reform the appointments process to ensure the quality of new appointments and will seek to improve the national and regional balance of the second chamber.

Whilst this action to modernise the House of Lords will be an

Scrapping the Conservatives' voter ID scheme and requiring political parties to publish candidate diversity data, as set out in chapter 20

POLITICAL REFORM (p100)
'Establishing national & local citizens' assemblies to ensure that the public are fully engaged in finding solutions to the greatest challenges we face, such as tackling the climate emergency & the use of AI & algorithms by the state'

And require parties to publish candidate diversity data (s106), push for global convention/treaty to combat disinfo/election interference, Global Counter-Disinfo Fund, radical real-time transparency for political ads/donations/spending

Commence Reform of the House of Lords & Civil Service

Replace the crony-filled House of Lords with a much smaller, more democratic second chamber. Structure to be debated.

Immediate end of political appointees. Replace Civil Service leaders with successful professionals from the private sector, who are political appointees, who come and go with the government.

Commence Reform of the Postal Voting System

Postal voting has allowed electoral fraud. We will stop postal voting except for the elderly, disabled or those who can't leave their homes.

Thereafter:

Proportional Representation Voting for the House of Commons

Large numbers of voters have no representation in parliament and new parties are shut out of the political system. Voter turnout could be some 10% higher with PR. A referendum is needed.

Our priorities will be:

- A Fair Politics Act to strengthen our democracy now.

- Replacing the House of Lords with an elected second chamber.

- Votes for 16-year-olds and residence-based voting rights.

- A Constitutional Commission to start a vital national conversation about a new constitutional settlement. (p33)

Fair Politics Act

Elected Greens will introduce a Fair Politics Act to strengthen our democracy now. This legislation would do the following:

- Repeal the anti-democratic Elections Act 2022, ending the need to provide voter-ID.

- Restore the Electoral Commission's power to prosecute, and abolish the barriers to third-party campaigning so that all groups can be transparently involved in the democratic process.

- Replace the first-past-the-post system for parliamentary and council elections with a fair and proportional voting system.

- Introduce a fair system of state funding for political parties to eliminate dependence on large private donations.

- Remove the cap on fines that can be imposed by the Electoral Commission on political parties that have been found to have breached electoral law.

- Strengthen the transparency rules on

Re-establishing acceptable standards of public life and the integrity of public institution is of pivotal importance. The Labour Party must extend measures to limit conflict of interest and corporate capture beyond MPs, to include also civil servants and independent authorities. In particular, we have seen how the ICO has suffered both from lack of independence from the Government and revolving door issues, both of which undermine the credibility of an already, objectively dysfunctional institution: the next government should reform the ICO in line with proposals presented by the House of Lords with the support of Open Rights Group, and in particular:

- Transfer the responsibility to appoint, supervise and allocate funding to the Information Commissioner to Parliament, as proposed by the Brown report.
- Enshrine in law that the principal objective of the ICO is the full enforcement of data protection law and information rights
- Fight the scourge of revolving doors by forbidding the Information Commissioner and other ICO staff members from seeking employment in the industry they regulated during their tenure for a period of at least 3 years.
- Reform the appeal process to ensure that the Information Tribunal can review the substance of an ICO decision, and implement article 80(2) of the UK GDPR to allow public interest organisations to better represent diffuse interests and collective complaints. The issue of judicial oversight and delegated legislative powers dominated policy debates around the Bill of Rights Bill, the Retained EU Law Act, the Online Safety Act and the DPDI Bill. Parliament needs to urgently tackle the issue of

improvement, Labour is committed to replacing the House of Lords with an alternative second chamber that is more representative of the regions and nations. Labour will consult on proposals, seeking the input of the British public on how politics can best serve them. (p108)

Although not in their manifesto, Labour have indicated that they will consider enabling 16-17 year olds to vote.

It has also been suggested within the election campaign that a future Labour Government will introduce Automatic Registration on the Electoral Roll.

recording political lobbying.

- Make the work of think tanks transparent, including by establishing a distinct legal entity for political foundations which conduct policy research and political education, with a requirement to be transparent about sources of funding.

- Give 16 and 17-year-olds the right to vote and to stand for parliament and other elected offices.

- Amend the Online Safety Act to protect democracy, and prevent political debate from being manipulated by falsehoods, fakes and half-truths.

unaccountable delegation of legislative power to the Government, in particular by abolishing Henry VIII clauses and ensure delegated power are always underpinned by Primary Law that defines what the Government can or cannot do with them, in line with the ECHR rule of law test.

Reform of the House of Lords has the potential to improve accountability and to benefit civil society more generally. In a post-Brexit world, Parliament has taken on much more work across many areas of detailed policy, and needs a step change to be able to deal with it effectively. We are currently reliant on an under-resourced and politically limited second chamber. Steps to make the second chamber genuinely representative of the UK could make a very great difference,

Affirmative rights for individuals to unconditionally refuse being subject to AI decisions are the best way to even the playing field, ensuring their opinions are taken into consideration and AI systems are deployed in their interest and not that of the companies who deploy them.

Granting votes to 16 year olds will require the Online Safety Act to be reformed. Currently 16-18 year olds will face a number of restrictions to their freedom of expression under the Act, on the justification that they need protecting from harm as children. If they are to get the vote then questions arise as to the age of adulthood and when people should be able to access information freely on the internet. If 16-17 year olds are blocked via age-gating from accessing websites then will they have the freedom of expression rights required to form informed voting opinions. An expansion of the franchise to this age-group should come alongside an expansion of their online freedom of expression rights.

Although there might be benefits in terms of voter participation from an automatic enrolment scheme ,it would also raise privacy issues for people who intentionally try to stay off the electoral roll. For example the link between the electoral roll and credit referencing agencies such as Experian means many people being pursued by debt collectors choose not to register. Vulnerable individuals such as victims of stalking, or refugees fleeing perscution by foreign states might also choose not to register. As such any automatic enrolment scheme should come with a clear opt-out and be done alongside reform of the

						Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018, the Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 to make anonymous registration easier for those in need of digital sanctuary and privacy protections.
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