

Privacy and Consumer Advisory Group (PCAG)
% Verify Identity Assurance Team
Government Digital Service
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6NH

The Rt Hon B Gummer MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

23 September 2016

Dear Mr. Gummer,

In early June, we wrote to your predecessor on behalf of the Privacy and Consumer Advisory Group (PCAG). We attach a copy of that letter: to date we have not received any response.

In case you have not already been briefed on the existence and role of PCAG by your officials, it was established by the Rt Hon Lord Maude of Horsham when he was MCO. Its purpose is to provide the UK government with independent expert review, analysis, guidance and feedback. Our remit is to ensure best practice in identity, privacy, security and technology to protect citizens' interests, with a particular focus on ensuring data and personal information, and the technology used to manage it, is well designed, engineered and implemented.

Amongst other guidance, PCAG has published the Identity Assurance Principles to inform and guide the privacy-related aspects identity-related initiatives within government, and in particular the GOV.UK Verify programme.

We would welcome a meeting with you at the earliest opportunity in order to talk through the role and value of PCAG and to summarise the current landscape and issues from the group's perspective. Rather than this being the entire group, we would suggest that the two of us, as Co-Chairs, meet with you for an initial meeting. An introductory meeting with the entirety of the membership of PCAG could then follow when convenient.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Professor Jerry Fishenden (Co-Chair) and Dr Edgar Whitley (Co-Chair)
On behalf of the Privacy and Consumer Advisory Group (PCAG)

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FILE COPY: PREVIOUS LETTER TO THE MCO

**Privacy and Consumer Advisory Group (PCAG)
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Government Digital Service
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125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6NH**

The Rt Hon M Hancock MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

6 June 2016

Dear Mr. Hancock,

The Privacy and Consumer Advisory Group (PCAG) was pleased to meet you in December last year. We welcome your desire and commitment to ensure that the Government's handling of information will inspire the trust and confidence of UK citizens – including some of the most vulnerable in our society, who have most to fear from inappropriate access to and use of their sensitive personal information.

Following that meeting and our subsequent work in reviewing numerous initiatives in the public sector, PCAG would like to discuss our concerns with two current initiatives:

- provisions in the Investigatory Powers Bill currently before Parliament
- proposals on the use and sharing of data in connection with the forthcoming Digital Economy Bill, and following on from the recent "Better use of data" consultation

We are raising these issues in order to enable us to fulfill our obligations – namely, to provide the UK Government with independent expert review, analysis, guidance and feedback on all personal data and privacy-impacting initiatives by all departments, agencies and other public sector bodies.

We would welcome a meeting in order to highlight our concerns, and to seek clarity and assurance with regards to aspects of both of these initiatives.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Professor Jerry Fishenden (Co-Chair) and Dr Edgar Whitley (Co-Chair)
On behalf of the Privacy and Consumer Advisory Group (PCAG)