

CASNIC

Campaign to STOP the National Identity Card

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A Brief Summary of the Arguments Against a National Identity Card

CASNIC is a single-issue protest group set up with the aim of stopping the government introducing a compulsory National Identity Card into the UK. We are also against 'voluntary' National Identity Cards as a back-door route to compulsion.

We are a concerned group of private citizens who wish to protect our fast-vanishing privacy and liberty. All funding is from voluntary individual donations. We are not affiliated to any group, religion, political party or business.

We are not against voluntary, private ID; neither are we against specific technologies to confirm identity (i.e. 'biometric' data such as iris scans.)

We are against compulsion and a National Citizen Database with its associated 'file' on each one of us, no matter how innocent the information held in each of our files. I.e. we are against this on principle.

This is not merely a 'step too far,' it is 100 giant paces towards totalitarianism. It is also expensive, unworkable and will produce very little of the 'advertised benefits.' It will not stop crime, it will not stop terrorism – indeed it could aid both of these.

Whatever the problem or question, the National Identity Card is not the answer. There are better, more workable, far cheaper solutions to any problem raised in support of such a card.

If you care about your privacy and freedom please join us in our fight to stop this right now.

Freedom –v- Privacy

We believe in finding a correct balance between preserving our freedom and privacy on the one hand, and satisfying our desire for safety and security on the other.

Such a balance requires wise, benevolent government and constant vigilance from the population. **We must be prepared to challenge those who would violate our freedom and privacy for their own political or financial gain.**

Who Gains From an ID Card?

Government. All governments of all persuasions in all countries constantly seek increased power and control – often, by the way, for genuinely benign reasons, but often not.

Big Business. They long for all ‘consumers’ to be logged, filed and classed according to ‘demographics’ and ‘spending profiles’. This is not a sinister motive. It merely increases their profits as they can more carefully and cost-effectively target their marketing.

Big Brother

The National ID card is a giant leap towards totalitarian Big Brother control.

It paves the way for a ‘citizen database’ with each citizen becoming a number on a large government computer which would hold a ‘file’ on each of us. Initially the file would contain very little (date of birth, current address...). But gradually (in the name of ‘preventing terrorism’ ‘stopping crime’ or ‘protecting children’) the file would contain more and more personal information such as: your spending habits, your ethnicity, your religion, your sexual preferences, your political leanings, your health records, your criminal records, your driving record and convictions. Naturally the government currently have ‘no plans’ to add such data and maintain that they will have ‘adequate safeguards’ in place...

Expensive

It is hugely expensive (lowest estimate is £3 BILLION) the government intend these charges to be passed on to each enforced cardholder *in full*. More realistic estimates are £9 BILLION.

Why is government spending this amount of money on a database to track and log each citizen, rather than on our health service, crumbling infrastructure, appalling public transport, schools, deprived inner city areas etc.?

A Solution Looking for a Problem

The government’s own reasons for bringing in this card are weak. David Blunkett claims it will reduce terrorism, reduce crime, reduce illegal immigration and stop social security fraud.

Terrorism

It will not stop or even reduce terrorism – in fact it could *aid* terrorism as false ID cards can and will be manufactured by criminals.

Social Security Fraud

It may reduce Social Security ID fraud only (which is a miniscule percentage of the Social Security budget and the *smallest* area of Social Security fraud). Most such fraud is ‘understatement of circumstances’ not Identity Fraud.

Crime

It would do nothing to stop other crime (burglary, assault, theft, fraud, rape, mugging, murder...). The police so far have been very luke-warm about any alleged ‘crime reduction’ which will occur as a result. Rather it will create a huge underground lucrative criminal trade in fake ID estimated to be worth billions. **That which can be made by man can be faked by man.**

Immigration

Immigrants already are subject to stringent ID checks and must have their fingerprints taken etc. Illegal immigrants often arrive with no ID whatsoever, having shredded their passports in an attempt to become faceless and backgroundless. A National ID Card will do precisely nothing to stop this problem.

Bureaucratic Nightmare

It will create a vast bureaucracy of expensive employees to maintain the system of tagging citizens, issuing cards, and dealing with lost and stolen cards. Governments are, historically, truly terrible at such large national projects and so costs are most likely to double, triple or worse.

Criminalise Ordinary People

It will criminalise tens of thousands of innocent people as it will eventually be an offence not to carry your card and present it on demand to an authorised state official.

Thought Police

It will make us constantly and habitually defer to state control on a daily basis. Thus: “Have I got my ID card? What if I’m stopped? Must remember not to go out without it. Hope I’m not caught this time...” and “Should I buy this magazine on guns? What if it ends up on my record? Maybe I’d better not visit that country – it would look bad on my file. Maybe I won’t buy that extra bottle of wine – it could damage my health record and affect my insurance premiums...”)

Whatever the problem or question, the National Identity Card is not the answer. There are better, more workable, far cheaper solutions to any problem raised in support of such a card.

The fight is LOST once ID cards are introduced. No matter how benign, no matter how little data is kept on each of us at the start, no matter what stringent safeguards are in place, **once the Citizen Tracking Computer has been set up and ID cards issued, the fight is over**. Each successive year will merely bring more legislation to add more data to the card.

NOW is the time to fight. Please help us by visiting www.CASNIC.org and clicking the “How You Can Help” button.

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