

Green peer responds to highly critical report about storage of data under the 'snoopers' charter'



11 June 2019

Green peer Jenny Jones has responded to a report on the use of the Investigatory Powers' Act (IPA – known as the 'snoopers' charter').

The campaigning group Liberty has highlighted the conclusions of the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office that MI5 had "illegally mishandled" data including calls, messages, location and web-browsing history.

Commissioner Adrian Fulford said compliance failures first became clear in January 2016, but were only brought to the IPCO's attention in February 2019.

Jenny said: "This report has confirmed what we've known for some time, that the security services, as well as the police, are operating their surveillance systems without accepting that they have to operate lawfully, and in a properly targeted manner.

"I know from my own experience of being put on the domestic extremism database that valuable security time and energy are wasted on the wrong targets.

"We have to ensure the police and security services are not out of control, trampling on our human rights and civil liberties."

Back when the Act was passed in 2016, Jenny wrote: "We have given our security services unprecedented powers to spy on us." (2)

She said today: "They have clearly exceeded even the sweeping powers they were given, and broken the law in the process."

Further information: contact press@greenparty.org.uk, 07967-417859

Notes

(1) <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-security-mi5/watchdog-says-mi5-spy-agency-mishandled-snooping-data-for-years-idUKKCN1TC1NC?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&rpc=921>

(2) https://twitter.com/GreenJennyJones/status/798922431545098240?ref_src=twrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E798922431545098240&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theinquirer.net%2Finquirer%2Fnews%2F2477546%2Fsnoopers-charter-20-i-p-bill-passed-by-parliament-and-will-become-law-within-weeks

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[Green Party conference calls for reinstatement of David Muritu at Sandwell College](#)



9 June 2019

Delegates at the Green Party conference passed an emergency motion on Saturday in support of a trade unionist who was sacked for writing “racist” on a poster for the government’s Prevent programme.

David Muritu, a college lecturer and member of the Universities and College Union, was sacked by Sandwell College this week after defacing the poster because he felt the Prevent scheme – which requires teachers to report students who show signs of being drawn into extremism – unfairly targeted Muslims (1).

Green Party member Samir Jeraj, who moved the motion, said:

“We completely oppose trade union victimisation and call on Sandwell College to reverse their decision.

“Prevent is a racist endeavour and we stand in solidarity with Dave in calling this out.”

The Green Party conference motion called for Mr Muritu’s immediate reinstatement.

Co-leader Sian Berry said: “The Green Party has since its inception been expressing concerns about Prevent.

“In its current form it disproportionately targets Muslim communities.

“We should instead pursue community-led collaborative approaches to tackling all forms of extremism.”

Notes

1. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/sandwell-college-sacks-lecturer-dave-16380273>

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[Deputy leader celebrates Green successes as party conference opens](#)



7 June 2019

The Green Party deputy leader, Amelia Womack, will open the party's spring conference in Scarborough with a call to build on the electoral and campaign successes of this year, which have seen the number of Green councillors and Green MEPs more than double and membership increase by nearly 15,000 in England and Wales.

Amelia will tell delegates that electoral success is being achieved despite the odds being stacked against smaller parties with a political system that is badly broken, and a hollowed-out, outdated and out-of-touch media.

"Our archaic democracy needs to be revived with a truly proportional system where every vote and every voter matters," she will say.

"A system where MPs can sit in the party which truly reflects their values and beliefs in a mature parliament with collaboration at its heart.

"For three years that system has tried to handle Brexit... and it has failed embarrassingly."

Amelia Womack will also say the Green Party remains committed to equality for women on boards of business, in the houses of Parliament and in every aspect of public life.

On climate action, she will accuse the media of ignoring the climate crisis and instead manufacturing a migration crisis. And she will criticise the government and local authorities for continuing to support airports or road building while at the same time declaring a climate emergency. What's needed instead, she will say, is a complete rebuild of Britain's economic and political system with a Green New Deal.

"A Green New Deal will not only build green infrastructure, it will empower people and it will put environmental and social justice where they belong – jointly at the heart of our democracy and intertwined."

"We must be the architects of the future. We will build new structures: ones

based on peace, justice and equality. Ones which leave no-one behind. And ones which hold the wellbeing of people and planet at their very core.”

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[‘Green Wave’ Party conference in Scarborough starts tomorrow](#)



6 June 2019

The Green Party ‘spring’ conference will open tomorrow (Friday) in Scarborough, with a big celebration congratulating all of our new MEPs and councillors (3.45pm).

Co-leaders Sian Berry and Jonathan Bartley will be reinforcing the “yes to Europe, no to climate change” message in their speeches on Saturday, as the party celebrates spectacular European and local election results, and polling putting us on 12% in general election voting intention.

Jonathan said: “This is a tremendous exciting time to be a Green. The Green Wave, driven by the demand for action of our climate emergency and the pressing human needs causes by inequality and poverty, is pushing through Europe.

“We offer policies designed to reinvigorate our communities, the democratic process and our natural environment.

“Greens know that the politics of hope is what people need. We stand against the politics of fear, the rhetoric of division and xenophobia pushed by the far right.”

Sian added: “We acknowledge the concerns in communities up and down the country, like those in North Yorkshire, where large numbers of people voted leave in 2016.

“They are concerned about low wages and insecure employment, about filthy air and unaffordable housing, about the destruction of the natural environment that they see going on daily around them.

“Distant Westminster doesn’t speak to their concerns, is tied up in internal party wrangling and acts in the interests of big businesses rather than communities. It starves the poorest and most vulnerable of funds while

enhancing the incomes of multinational companies and rich tax-dodgers.

“Transformational change is inevitable, and we offer policies that deliver for the common good, while looking after this fragile, overstretched planet.”

Other highlights:

Friday 3pm Deputy leader Amelia Womack’s speech

Friday 4.30pm Mobilising the climate emergency, a panel chaired by MEP Molly Scott Cato

Saturday Noon “Our Europe” rally with local and regional “Stop Brexit” groups

Saturday 1pm Co-leaders Jonathan Bartley and Sian Berry joint speech.

Saturday 3.15pm A UK Green New Deal, from idea to reality, a panel chaired by Caroline Lucas MP

Sunday 3.15pm Ocean pollution and the future of our seas panel

Saturday and Sunday 10-11am Members will be joining the local Sea Swim group for a dip

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[Greens celebrate 2 million votes in England and Wales as Green Wave rolls across Europe](#)



27 May 2019

Huge support for ‘yes to Europe, no to climate change’

European parliamentary group is third-largest

Green Party co-leader Jonathan Bartley has this morning celebrated his party’s total vote in the European election topping 2 million.

Jonathan said: “The result of this election, with 12 per cent of the vote, a tally of more than 2 million, shows huge support for our message of ‘yes to Europe, no to climate change’.

“To beat the Tory Party in a national election for the first time is just the icing on the cake.”

Jonathan added: “The result in the UK is a reflection of what has happened across Europe. The Greens/EPA group in the European parliament is leaping to be the third-largest group, with great results from the German, French, Finnish and many other European green parties.

“The pollsters did not see approaching the 50% boost in the group to 75 seats that the voters have delivered.

“As our European parliamentary co-president Ska Keller told the BBC last night, we want to deliver on transformational climate action and the promise of social action in Europe.

“Austerity in the UK and far beyond has done great damage. The political philosophy that has allowed the wealth of the 1% to soar while many millions struggle is one of the key causes of the 2016 Brexit vote. It is causing great dissatisfaction with the politics-as-usual approach of the old parties across Europe.

“Green politics is new, different and exciting. That’s a message that particularly has captured the imagination and votes of young people across Europe and I look forward to seeing what our great team of seven MEPs can achieve in Europe.”

Notes

Greens were elected for the first time as MEPs in the Eastern, North West, West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber regions. Greens retained seats in London, the South East and the South West (where Molly Scott Cato was re-elected).

Greens topped the vote in Bristol, Norwich and Brighton and Hove and scored notable second places in Sheffield, Cambridge and Oxford.

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