

UK State reply to alert “Proposal Set to Increase Prison Sentences for Leaking Official Documents”

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The Law Commission’s 2017 consultation, as part of their review of the Protection of Official Data, provisionally concluded that the Official Secrets Acts (OSAs) 1911-1989 needed to be repealed and replaced. The consultation included the suggestion that prison sentences for the leaking of official documents under the OSA 1989 be increased and asked the public for comment. The Law Commission’s review is ongoing. The UK Government recognises the importance of a free press as one of the foundations on which the UK’s democracy rests, and will carefully consider the Law Commission’s final recommendations when they are published.