

Letter to The Guardian, 17 October 2016

Dear Editor,

Your editorial 'The privacy of citizens is being eroded' (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/16/the-guardian-view-on-data-sharing-the-privacy-of-citizens-is-being-eroded>), fails to recognise the provisions to improve data sharing for statistics and research in the digital economy bill. These provisions build on well-established frameworks which protect the identity of individuals. They relate to aggregate data for statistical purposes, and are much needed to improve the evidence base for a wide range of critical decisions for the country.

Hetan Shah, Executive Director, Royal Statistical Society

Professor Jane Elliott, Chief Executive, Economic and Social Research Council

Sharon Witherspoon, Head of Policy, Academy of Social Science

Vanessa Cuthill, University of Essex