

17th July 2003

Sir,

Identity cards

I object strongly to the introduction of universal or compulsory identity cards.

I believe that they will not achieve the objectives which the Government claims for them, that they will involve large Government expense on IT and database projects that will fail but will nevertheless lend themselves to objectionable and privacy-threatening data-sharing, and that they will lead to objectionable demands for members of the public to prove their identity in circumstances where they are entitled to anonymity.

I object particularly to what will emerge as a requirement for me to have an "official name" approved and recorded by the state. I value my present freedom to use any name I choose for any purpose as long as I am not fraudulent, and deeply resent the prospect of the erosion of that freedom.

Regards

Nicholas Bohm