

PROTECTION OF INFORMATION BILL

The Home Office are saying the following in response to inquiries about the Bill:

The Government are considering the implications of the Blunt affair for the Protection of Official Information Bill in the light of the fact that the Bil is due to go into its Committee Stage in the Lords next week.

Home Office hope to stick to this line for the rest of this week. [For our own information: I gather Ministers accept that the Bill will need very considerable redrafting if it survives at all]. On a visit to the police in Leeds last Friday, the Home Secretary indicated that the Government would be prepared to consider amendments to the Bill and this was fully reported in Saturday's 'Times' but not in other papers.