

dur Way

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL LONDON SWIA 2AT

14 August 1984

21/18

ACCESS TO PERSONAL FILES (NO 2) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 31 July about this further Bill which has been introduced by Chris Smith. I note that it goes slightly further than the previous one, and agree with you that our attitude should be the same as on his original Bill. Since no days remain this session on which Private Members' Bills could be taken, we will not be called upon to express our views in debate on this Bill; but it is one which would need to be blocked if it came to Second Reading.

I am copying this reply to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, other members of Legislation Committee, Sir Robert Armstrong and First Parliamentary Counsel.

JOHN BIFFEN

Rt Hon the Earl of Gowrie Minister of State Management and Personnel Office

