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Dear Resident

The safety of citizens is the first duty of any government. The threat from terrorists wanting to murder on a massive scale has been especially clear since the events in New York on 11 September 2001 and London on 7 July 2005.

There have been many other attempted terrorist plots, foiled by our police and security services. The increasing scale and complexity of the work involved in protecting our country from terrorists is demanding of both time and resources.

Against this background, Parliament is debating our anti-terrorist laws, including the maximum time that police can detain a terrorist suspect without charge. The Government wants to extend this maximum time from 28 days to 42 days in certain exceptional circumstances - and with extensive safeguards.

The Government, supported by the police, believes it better to have precautionary powers focussed specifically on preventing terrorism than relying on broader laws that require the calling of a State of Emergency. We must balance cherished civil liberties with public safety. However, the preservation of these freedoms and of our way of life depends upon defeating terrorism.

Some people want more evidence of the need for greater police powers. However, I feel that such evidence may only come with a successful terrorist attack. In that event we would ask why the law had not been strengthened!

With this dilemma in mind, I hope that you will take time to give me your views on the form attached. I thank you in advance for your help.

Yours sincerely

Diana Johnson
MP for Kingston upon Hull North



Diana Johnson MP

Citizen Survey: Terrorism Legislation

Keeping its citizens safe and secure is the first duty of any government and one which I take extremely seriously.

In light of the security threats that our country faces, Parliament is debating the anti-terrorist powers available to police and security services, including the period that terrorist suspects can be detained without trial. I would be grateful to hear your views on this issue.

E-mail	<input type="text"/>		
First name	<input type="text"/>	Surname	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>	Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Mobile (or landline)	<input type="text"/>		

Are you concerned about the threat of terrorist attacks in this country?

Yes **No**

Do you think that the police need and should be given extra powers to interrogate suspected terrorists?

Yes **No**

Should any new powers granted to the police apply generally rather than only in an emergency?

Yes **No**

How long do you think the police should be able to question a terrorist suspect before they have to be charged or released?

Under 28 days **28 days (current)** **42 days** **longer if needed**

Should Parliament wait for further evidence of terrorist activity before considering changes to the terrorist laws?

Yes **No**

Comments:

I produce a regular report to update constituents about what is going on in Parliament - please tick this box if you would like to receive it. This will be sent by e-mail if you provide one above.

Please return form to: Diana Johnson MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA