# Labour sparks revolt by stripping AI data transparency amendment using financial privilege



The ongoing saga surrounding the Data (Use and Access) Bill in the UK is revealing the inefficacies and contradictions of the new Labour government, as the legislative process drags on without resolve. Recently, tensions escalated when the House of Lords voted to reinstate an amendment requiring AI companies to disclose detailed information about the data used throughout all stages of AI model development. However, in a troubling display of power, the Labour government, under Keir Starmer, invoked an unusual parliamentary procedure to strip the amendment, citing financial privilege. This move reeks of a government prioritizing a fast-tracked agenda over substantive regulation.

The decision to remove this vital measure sparked a significant backlash, reflecting deepening divisions within Starmer’s party; 106 Labour MPs abstained from the vote, indicating a fracture on the critical issue of AI transparency and regulation. Baroness Beeban Kidron, who had been a relentless advocate for the amendment, expressed her outrage, stating, “A Government that is facing issues of productivity… has just thrown one of its most successful, skilled and valuable industries under the bus.” This sentiment echoes a wider concern that the Labour administration is neglecting the potential of the UK's burgeoning AI sector, especially at a time when youth unemployment rises and innovation is desperately needed.

The amendment was designed to ensure AI firms comply with UK copyright law by mandating them to disclose the data sources and methods used for model training. Such transparency is essential and has received backing from nearly 400 individuals in the UK’s creative industries, including luminaries like Sir Paul McCartney and Dua Lipa, who recently implored No. 10 for a more robust copyright framework in the face of AI advancements.

Moreover, while the Lords attempted to tighten the bill's provisions concerning scientific data, enhancing ethical and legal standards for research, the Commons took steps to expand it, illustrating the tug-of-war between ethical AI development and the government’s reckless pursuit of innovation without sufficient oversight.

Labour MP Polly Billington has made a commendable push for accountability, yet Minister of Culture Chris Bryant’s vague assurances about prioritizing transparency in future legislation come off as hollow, especially given the current administration's track record. The lack of assertiveness in their approach raises significant doubts about whether the government can truly address the growing concerns of AI's implications on privacy, copyright, and ethical data use.

As Baroness Kidron gears up to reintroduce the amendment, the spotlight now shifts to whether a government so fixated on economic ambition can genuinely align with the regulatory expectations of both Parliament and the public. The outcome of this protracted debate is primed to define the future of AI governance and accountability in the UK, and it’s time we demand a government that listens.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.pymnts.com/cpi-posts/meta-begins-defense-after-ftc-concludes-case-in-landmark-antitrust-trial/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2025-01-28/debates/AABE348A-4DCF-4355-A420-6C5FC3DF0A52/Debate> - On January 28, 2025, the UK House of Lords debated the Data (Use and Access) Bill, focusing on amendments related to the transparency of web crawlers and AI models. These amendments require operators to disclose information about their crawlers, including their identity, purpose, and the data they access. The goal is to ensure that AI companies adhere to UK copyright law by providing clear information about the data used in training their models, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in AI development.
3. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2025-01-21/debates/78DC6C49-32D7-40B9-B438-2FF3BC801A8D/details> - During the House of Lords debate on January 21, 2025, Baroness Kidron proposed an amendment to the Data (Use and Access) Bill. This amendment aims to require data traders to provide customers with information used by AI to build profiles about them. The proposal seeks to enhance transparency and accountability in AI-driven decision-making, ensuring that individuals are informed about how their data is utilized in AI models, thereby protecting their rights and interests.
4. <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3825/stages/19404/amendments/10017758> - Amendment 63 to the Data (Use and Access) Bill, introduced by Baroness Kidron, mandates that operators of web crawlers and general-purpose AI models disclose detailed information about the data used in training their models. This includes the URLs accessed, the type and provenance of the data, and the timeframe of data collection. The amendment aims to ensure that AI companies comply with UK copyright law by providing transparency regarding the data utilized in their AI models.
5. <https://bills.parliament.uk/Bills/3825> - The Data (Use and Access) Bill is a legislative proposal in the UK Parliament that addresses access to customer and business data, regulation of AI models, and the establishment of the Information Commission. The bill aims to create a framework for data usage and access, ensuring compliance with privacy and electronic communications standards, and establishing regulations for the processing of information related to identified or identifiable living individuals.
6. <https://kennedyslaw.com/en/thought-leadership/article/2025/the-uks-data-use-and-access-bill-latest-amendments-and-legal-implications/> - Kennedys Law provides an analysis of the latest amendments to the UK's Data (Use and Access) Bill, focusing on the legal implications for AI companies. The article discusses proposed changes that require AI companies to disclose information about the data used in training their models, including the URLs accessed and the type of data collected. These amendments aim to enhance transparency and accountability in AI development, ensuring compliance with UK copyright law and protecting the rights of data subjects.
7. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2024-12-18/debates/A1CA5CDE-6F55-42E6-8153-31F3FFB302E4/details> - On December 18, 2024, the UK House of Lords debated the Data (Use and Access) Bill, focusing on amendments related to the transparency of web crawlers and AI models. Amendment 205 requires the Secretary of State to set out steps by which web crawlers and general-purpose AI models are transparent, including providing a name for a crawler, identifying the legal entity responsible for it, and disclosing the businesses to which they sell the data they have scraped. This aims to create a transparent supply chain and ensure compliance with UK copyright law.