To your MP to ask for Protection from the State Plans for AI Development using Pupil Data and Content

[Your Name / Address]
[Your Email or telephone number]

[Date]

FAO [Your MP Name]
[Address]
[or by email:]

Dear [Name of your MP], [To find who to write to see https://www.writetothem.com/]

Subject: Regarding Use of Educational Data and Intellectual Property in AI Training

Dear [Recipient's Name],

I am writing to express my strong concerns regarding the potential use of personal data, educational work, and examination results from schools to train AI models. It is imperative that such personal and often sensitive data, including work created by pupils and teachers, is protected and not used by private for-profit companies. The government plans from the departments of DSIT and the DfE must not go ahead.

My concerns include the following:

1. Protection of Vulnerable Groups: I am particularly worried about the potential impact on vulnerable groups, such as individuals with disabilities, marginalised communities, and non-native English speakers, who may be unaware of their rights to opt-out. These groups must be prioritised in safeguarding measures to ensure their data and intellectual property are not exploited. The only way to meaningfully do that is not by opt out, but to protect them from commercial exploitation at all.

2. Consent: Consent is not valid in educational settings as the basis for anything data rights related, due to the power imbalance and willingness to please authorities and unwillingness to be a 'problem parent' or upset the relationship between school and pupil. There is no other lawful or ethical basis to go ahead.

3. Financial Integrity: Schools and educational institutions must not be incentivised financially to allow the use of pupils' or teachers' work for commercial purposes. This creates conflicts of interest and risks commodifying education at the expense of learners, parents and staff.

4. Teachers' Intellectual Property: Teachers' work, like pupils' work, should be safeguarded from commercial exploitation. The ownership of their intellectual property must remain clear, and licensing agreements should not be overly complex or burdensome. State education requires teachers' time and labour and this should not be used for the profit of technology companies, in my view.

5. Oversight and Regulation: Oversight of these processes and the procurement and adoption of safe and responsible edTech must be entrusted to an independent and trusted body, not the government department that seeks to profit from it, ensuring that decisions are made with the interests of pupils, parents, and teachers at the forefront.

I urge you to ensure the government adopts a robust legal framework that prioritises the protection of personal data and intellectual property, ensures fairness and equity, and prevents exploitation.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to your response and action to address this matter.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Position/ Role / School year group or Age if relevant]
[School/Organisation Name optional]