



News Report

from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*For the
West Midlands*

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Airport ‘no-scan, no flight’ rules are “outrageous”

Local Conservative MEP Philip Bradbourn has condemned the decision taken by the government that Manchester and Heathrow and soon Birmingham airports will have to enforce a compulsory full body scan in order to for passengers to fly, as absolutely outrageous. Moreover, a rule which meant that anybody under the age of 18 were not allowed to be scanned using the naked-image body scanning technology due to child-protection laws, has now been overturned by the Government, meaning that regardless of age, people will be subjected to a virtual strip search.

The Department of Transport has published an interim code of practice which covers privacy, health and safety, data protection, and issues of equality in the usage of full body scanners in UK airports.

Responding to the news, Mr Bradbourn said:

“I am furious that the Government have overturned the laws prohibiting minors from taking part in full body scanning at airports. This is clearly an affront to public decency and the protection of children and it is wholly unacceptable that my constituents and their children are going to be subjected to these intrusive and over the top scans.

The Department of Transport’s interim code of practise is insufficient and does not ensure that people will be protected from the embarrassment and intrusion which these scans can cause, and it is beyond belief that the Government have overturned a law designed to protect children from abuse, as these scanners effectively turn airport-security operators into creators of child pornography.

I shall immediately be contacting the child protection charities to see if they will be prepared to take the government to judicial review on this issue. It is nothing short of a perverts charter, especially when there are other equally valid systems available and when, according to some experts and the government themselves, these scanners are not a magic bullet to aircraft security.”

ENDS

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