

What is at stake? It is the principle of habeas corpus—an individual's right not to be held for prolonged periods without the state bringing criminal charges against him. That ancient right dates back to Magna Carta of 1215; it is one of our most basic, fundamental freedoms that millions died defending in the last century.

*David Davis, MP in 2008*

The actual principle is one of prompt charging. That is the principle that goes back to Magna Carta. So the word is prompt.

*Shami Chakrabarti, director of human rights organisation LIBERTY*

... the Government's proposal to extend the maximum limit for pre-charge detention to 42 ....clearly violates the right to liberty laid down not only in our own Human Rights Act, but under relevant international human rights standards...

*Dr. Eric Metcalfe, director of human rights policy at JUSTICE*

Given the circumstances that the UK has faced over the last few years, [such as] the growth in the number of plots, the number of conspirators in each plot and the magnitude of their ambition, sooner or later we are going to need more than 28 days.

*Sir Ian Blair, Metropolitan Police Commissioner*

How [do you] answer my constituent, Andy Brown, whose body was blown asunder by the London bombing (July 7<sup>th</sup> 2005), and who, when he finally returned home, did so without either of his legs? The point that his wife Jan puts, is that if ...by detaining people longer... we prevent one other family's life from being destroyed in this way, that is a price worth paying.... those who have lost their liberty temporarily can be compensated, but there is no adequate compensation for my constituent.

*Frank Field Labour MP*

Extended pre-charge detention carries the danger, which should not be underestimated, of antagonising many who currently recognise the need for cooperating with the police.

*Home Affairs Committee*

... the Commission is concerned as to the potentially adverse impact the proposals will have on Muslim and other ethnic minority communities and on community relations more generally.

*Equality and Human Rights Commission*

The reasons for the need for increased time are: the sophisticated complexity of the material; the vastly increasing amount of [encrypted material], the need for the police to intervene early to avoid the risk of letting a terrorist plot run; the multiple identities of suspects; the global reach of contacts involved.

*Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, House of Lords*

It has been a fundamental right of the UK citizen not to be detained arbitrarily without charge, and upon detention to know the nature of the charge against him and to have legal representation... those rights can be traced all the way back to Magna Carta in the 13th century

*Lord Dear, House of Lords*

The trend towards increasingly complex and international terrorist plots is why we have increased pre-charge detention, to increase the chances of gaining the successful convictions of those terrorists. Of course, we have to balance this with civil liberties, but surely none of us wants the police to have to release dangerous individuals back into society, perhaps to disappear, just because time has run out.

*Lord Foulkes of Cumnock, House of Lords*