

# JUSTICE PRESS RELEASE

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## **Public Bodies Bill threatens parliamentary sovereignty and human rights**

JUSTICE today warned Peers that the Public Bodies Bill, which will be debated in the House of Lords tomorrow, threatens human rights and the sovereignty of the UK Parliament. The Bill would give government ministers broad powers to abolish, merge or modify independent public bodies without proper Parliamentary scrutiny, including those responsible for calling the government to account on human rights standards and the protection of the vulnerable – such as HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, the Children’s Commissioner and the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

Sally Ireland, Director of Criminal Justice Policy at JUSTICE, said:

**This Bill is a shocking attempt to give ministers law-making powers that should belong to Parliament. It raises the same concerns as the Labour government’s Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill did in 2006. The Bill needs substantial amendment.**

A copy of JUSTICE’s briefing on the Bill for House of Lords Second Reading on 9 November 2010 is attached.

For further information please contact Sally Ireland on (020) 7329 5100

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