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Data losses still a matter of grave concern for Keighley families

The loss by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of personal information belonging to every family and child in Keighley is still causing grave concern to hundreds of local residents according to Kris Hopkins, the constituency's Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate.

"The last census, carried out in 2001, revealed that there were 25,986 families and 21,520 dependent children living in Keighley and this number will have risen significantly since then," he commented. "Every one of these families and their children has had their security compromised by the loss of this data and many will understandably not rest easy until it is recovered. As a father myself living in Keighley, I know exactly what everyone is going through."

Cllr Hopkins said matters had worsened this week after Transport Minister Ruth Kelly was forced to admit that the details of three million learner drivers had also been mislaid by a Government-employed firm based in the United States.

"One must ask, how many more skeletons are there in the cupboard?" he said. "Is this downward spiral of Government gaffes and incompetence ever going to end? There seems little sign of it at the moment."

Cllr Hopkins said he was disappointed but not surprised at local MP Ann Cryer's failure to stand up for local people affected by the data losses.

"Almost every time the Government messes up, Ann Cryer announces that she's going to raise it with Gordon Brown," he said. "However, not only is her influence with the key figures in the Labour hierarchy minimal to say the least – the people at the very top clearly have no idea what they are doing either. If ever there was a case of the blind leading the blind, this is it."

Cllr Hopkins added: "One thing is for certain – the Government's much criticised national identity card scheme should now be declared dead in the water."

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