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Ananova :

Public sex offender register ruled out

The Government has ruled out opening sex offender registers to parents.

The move comes after John Prescott praised a Sunday newspaper's publication of photographs of four convicted paedophiles.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the News of the World was acting "more or less" like Crimewatch.

The men have failed to sign on the Sex Offenders' Register and gone missing.

A Home Office spokeswoman insisted there would be no "uncontrolled" access to the Sex Offenders' Register.

She said that, instead, the Government was proposing tougher sentencing and allowing "community representatives" to play a role in managing sex offenders.

Mr Prescott told the BBC: "If you look at the News of the World today I think what they are doing is more or less Crimewatch, they are putting some people's faces up and saying 'look, the police don't know where these are, please can you help us', and that I

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think is a public-spirited approach."

He stopped short of endorsing demands for a Sarah's Law, which would give parents access to details about paedophiles living in their area, and warned that the issue was "more controversial".

Writing in the New of the World, the Home Secretary David Blunkett said the Government would get tough on paedophiles.

He promised to bring a Bill before Parliament within a year which would result in "stronger sentences", with life for some sex offences.

Story filed: 17:17 Sunday 16th December 2001

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