



INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT



Privacy and Security Inquiry – Call for Evidence

On 17 October 2013, the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament (ISC) announced that it would be broadening its inquiry into the laws which govern the intelligence agencies' ability to intercept private communications. In addition to considering whether the current statutory framework governing access to private communications remains adequate, the Committee is also considering the appropriate balance between our individual right to privacy and our collective right to security.

The ISC is now inviting written submissions from those who wish to contribute to the inquiry. Submissions should adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) Submissions should be no more than 3,000 words and include an executive summary of up to 500 words.
- 2) Submissions may be sent via post to: Privacy and Security Inquiry, Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ. Submissions in Word format may be sent via email to privacy@intelligenceandsecuritycommittee.org
- 3) Please keep the use of colour to a minimum and use numbered paragraphs.
- 4) Please state clearly who the submission is from (e.g. from yourself in a personal capacity or sent on behalf of an organisation).
- 5) All submissions may be published, in whole or in part, in the Committee's published reports. Any material that should remain confidential should be clearly labelled as such.
- 6) **The ISC would welcome written evidence on the following issues:**
 - a) **What balance should be struck between the individual right to privacy and the collective right to security?**

How does this differ for internet communications when compared to other forms of surveillance, such as closed-circuit television cameras? To what extent might it be necessary and proportionate to monitor or collect innocent communications in order to find those which might threaten our security? How does the intrusion differ between data (the fact a call took place between two numbers) as opposed to content (what was said in the call)?
 - b) **Whether the legal framework which governs the security and intelligence agencies' access to the content of private communications is 'fit for purpose', given the developments in information technology since they were enacted.**
 - c) **Proposals for specific changes to specific parts of legislation governing the collection, monitoring and interception of private communications.**
- 7) The deadline for receipt of evidence is **Friday 7 February 2014**.
- 8) The Committee intends to hold oral evidence sessions once written submissions have been reviewed. A number of these sessions will be held in public. Those invited to give oral evidence will be selected from among those who have provided written submissions.