

Review of Communications Data and Interception Powers

Terms of Reference

Aim

In the light of the diverse and emerging threats we face and the need to uphold civil liberties, to review the capabilities and powers required by law enforcement and the security and intelligence agencies and the regulatory framework within which those capabilities and powers should be exercised.

Objectives

To review the legislation governing the use of communications data and interception, with particular regard to the following issues:

- Current and future threats, capability requirements and the challenges of current and future technologies;
- The safeguards to protect privacy;
- The implications for the legal framework of the changing global nature of technology;
- The case for amending or replacing the legislation;
- The statistical and transparency requirements that should apply; and
- The effectiveness of current statutory oversight arrangements.

The review will take account of the findings of the Joint Committee on the draft Communications Data Bill, RUSI review, the ISC Privacy and Security Inquiry and administrative and resource impacts.

Timeframe/Outcome

David Anderson QC will lead the first stage of the review, and provide a report before the election for a Joint Committee which is to be established in the next Parliament. The Committee will lead a second phase of the review with a view to producing a final report.