



BT Privacy and
Free Expression
Report 2019

Privacy and Free Expression

We protect our customers from online harms and safeguard their privacy and security, supporting their right to free expression. We play a vital role in the fight against crime and terrorism. Sometimes these responsibilities conflict. This is a report about striking the right balance between the two.

We hope you find it insightful. And that it shows you how important our customers' trust is to us.

This report includes a high level overview of the key elements of the relevant lawful interception, data retention, data disclosure and web blocking regimes for the countries covered. It is not intended to be an exhaustive assessment and should not be read as such. Any laws referred to in Annex 2 are stated as at June 2018. This report does not constitute legal advice by us. We do not accept any legal responsibility or liability for its contents nor should any reliance be placed on its contents.

What's in this report?

We connect people and businesses in the UK and governments and large businesses around the world.

Without communications services like ours it would be much more difficult for people to access information and play an active role in society. But the data companies like us hold about their customers can reveal very personal details about their lives. So we need to protect our customers from online harms whilst also safeguarding their privacy. And we need to make sure they can use our services to communicate freely and without interference. But we also have a responsibility to help stop crime and terrorism by sharing data with authorities when lawfully obliged to do so.

That is what this report is about. We have put it together because we want to be as transparent and open as we can about how we deal with our customers' information in these circumstances. That includes explaining what the law says we have to share and keep.

Another function of this report is to show how our business can affect human rights, and how we're working with governments, NGOs and others to manage this. We use the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to help us identify the rights most at risk. Privacy and free expression are at the top of that list. That's because we're the gateway to our customers' ability to communicate.

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We have a legal obligation to provide certain information to governments and their agencies, like law enforcement, to help stop serious crime and terrorism. Doing this without compromising our customers' privacy can be a tough balancing act. We discuss how we handle this in part 2.

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We face new online threats every day – like terrorists' use of encrypted messaging apps. You can find out about our work to stop cyber-crime in part 3.

We have a 3,000-strong team of cyber-experts across 15 security operations centres worldwide to protect our networks and our customers. Their hard work identifying online threats means we block access to over 100 million attempted malware connections every month.

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In this part of the report we talk about how people should be free to access whatever they want online, whenever they want (as long as it's legal). We also explain the circumstances under which we might filter or block access to content.

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There are three annexes attached to this report.

- **Annex 1** has information on the laws that apply in this area in the UK, as well as some of the legal cases and challenges that have happened (and are still happening).
- **Annex 2** looks at relevant laws that apply in the key countries we work in outside the UK, and how we're expected to respond to them.
- **Annex 3** contains extra information and definitions of some of the terms we've used in this report.



1 Rights to privacy and security online

Section 1

Rights to privacy and security online

1.1 Our customers' data

As a network and service provider, it is vital we keep our customers' information safe. Otherwise they won't feel they can communicate freely and confidentially and are more vulnerable to online harm. So we welcome new data protection legislation which enhances privacy rights and brings greater consistency to data protection laws across the EU.

Why it's important to keep information safe

We must keep our customers' information safe so they can communicate freely, however they choose to do that. We believe this is a human right. And we take a human rights-based approach to respecting our customers' privacy and personal data rights. Because if they think others can access their information, they might worry about what they can say or do online.

When people go online they create data which can reveal details about their lives. Web browsing history, for example, could paint an intimate picture of a person. We have access to that data and use it to help us provide services, as long as our customers are happy for us to do that. (There's more about how we do this in our [privacy policy](#), including details on the personal information we hold, what we do with it, and why. It also explains the situations where we have to allow other organisations to access it by law.)

'No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.'

UN Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

BT and GDPR

Both EU and UK law have very strong regulations which deal with keeping people's data safe. One of these is the EU General Data Protection Regulation, better known as GDPR, which became law on 25 May 2018. It set a new standard for data protection. The [Data Protection Act 2018](#) clarifies how to apply certain aspects of GDPR in the UK. It also extends data protection principles in areas that EU law doesn't cover (like standards that apply to intelligence agencies dealing with national security).

These legal developments enhance privacy rights and bring greater consistency across the EU. But they also affect the way we do business.

How we're meeting the higher standards

Our executive committee oversees our GDPR programme, which applies to all the personal data we process. Some of the things we are doing include:

- re-checking all our systems to be clear where we're processing people's data, and why
- checking and improving our contracts with companies that process customers' data for us
- changing our customer contracts to make sure they meet the GDPR requirements of full transparency
- making sure it's clear what we do with people's data when they use our products and services
- updating the information on our websites about how we collect and use data
- training staff who process personal data so they know what to do to meet the new higher standards.

This is just the start. We are working to bring in higher standards for data protection across BT and change the way we handle data. These build on work we've previously done to protect individuals' data and privacy. We have already put in place several GDPR requirements including:

- **carrying out privacy impact assessments** – our online tool checks products and services comply with privacy requirements (all new products and services must do this)
- **employing data protection officers** – we have privacy champions in key regions outside the UK. They are managed by our chief privacy officer in London
- **using binding corporate rules** – these are a way to transfer data internationally within the same group of companies. We are the only UK communications services company to have had these approved, and only the second in Europe.

Rights to privacy and security online continued

1.2 Sharing data with government and law enforcement

We do everything we can to protect our customers' privacy. But sometimes we also have a legal obligation to share data with government agencies if it will help them protect national security or fight crime. So there are times when the law will override rights to privacy.

What does the law say?

The right to privacy is protected by the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and, in the UK, by the [Human Rights Act 1998](#). This Act brings human rights from the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) into UK law, like freedom of speech, thought and movement.

Another important piece of legislation in this area is the [Investigatory Powers Act 2016](#). This sets out the UK government's surveillance powers. Some areas of this Act are controversial, especially those around bulk powers. Broadly speaking, this is when authorities like law enforcement and intelligence have access to large quantities of data about people, even though they aren't under suspicion.

(There is more about these laws in Annex 1.)

When privacy laws do not apply

Privacy is not an absolute right. There are some circumstances where the law can override it, for example to stop crime or keep the public safe. There has to be a legitimate reason for this – any interference with someone's privacy must be 'necessary' and 'proportionate'.

As an example, we process UK data for reasons like account management (billing and providing the services that our customers ask us for) and cyber-security, where we study traffic on our networks to keep them safe from criminal activity. We believe that this is a legitimate reason and that what we're doing is both necessary and proportionate. Where law enforcement purposes are involved, it can be tricky to decide what is necessary and proportionate. See Annex 1 for how the UK courts have considered this.

Helping to find the right balance

We will do what we can to help the government lawfully protect national security and fight crime. But there must also be checks and balances in place – our customers have to be confident that we will do what's right to protect their privacy. Protecting our customers' security is vital as it helps them exercise their human rights to privacy and free speech. And investigatory powers regimes as a whole should create trust for *everyone*, whether that's the public, authorities or communications service providers.

If we find ourselves in a situation where there's tension between keeping customers safe and protecting their rights, we'll work with authorities and stakeholders to find the best way forward.

The future

All of this, as well as uncertainty about the UK's relationship with the EU, means the overall picture is unclear.

The investigatory powers regime in the UK is clearly in transition. The Investigatory Powers Act introduced some very important changes, but various legal challenges mean it is taking time to put these into action (there's more on this in Annex 1).

These are important issues and may not be resolved quickly. The debate continues over whether or not some of the powers available to the authorities under the Investigatory Powers Act are necessary and proportionate. Unless or until the law is changed, if the government and the judicial commissioners take the decision to approve the use of these powers, then in principle they are a legitimate tool for the authorities to use. BT will continue to respect the law and make sure we apply it properly.

Our role

The Commissioner has asked for communications service providers' views on some of these issues. We've had meetings with the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) to discuss these. We have also carried out technical training for several of the judicial commissioners involved in this area.

As the new regime comes into force, we must all set the right precedents. So we'll assess any documents we are sent for both substance and process, and we will ask for clarity if we need to. We also have strong internal governance in place – our [Investigatory Powers Governance Committee](#), a subcommittee of the BT Group Board, made up of our chair, Group CEO and other senior executives, oversees all our activity in the UK and abroad.



1.3 Protecting customers from cyber-attack

We are vigilant in keeping our networks secure and our customers' personal information safe. And this helps safeguard their human rights, for instance the right to privacy and freedom of expression. We believe that encryption is key to doing this, and that it is an important tool for protecting privacy and security.

Our responsibilities

It is our job to protect customers' privacy and safety. By keeping our networks secure, we help to keep their personal information safe, which means they can exercise human rights like the right to privacy and freedom of expression. This can also help them exercise other rights, like freedom of assembly, the right to education and freedom of association.

Because of this human rights-based approach to privacy and security, we've designed our policies and processes to respect and protect human rights – not to lessen them. The better we are at protecting customers' cyber-security, the better able they are to control their information, manage their privacy and exercise their other rights.

Our customers' role

It isn't just down to us. We want our customers to play a part in protecting themselves online – like using strong passwords or not clicking links in suspicious emails. This will also make our networks safer. To help with this we invest in educating our customers, training our staff and protecting our infrastructure to keep our networks safe. Working with technology specialists, industry partners and the National Cyber Security Centre, we create a secure space for our business and our customers, and keep up to date with threats so we can defend against them.

What are the risks to security and privacy?

More devices than ever are connected to the internet. This doesn't show any sign of slowing down – the number of connected devices is forecast to grow from nearly 27 billion in 2017 to 125 billion in 2030.

And while we are excited about technology like the internet of things and artificial intelligence, they do bring increased risks to people's privacy and security. It's great to be able to control household items like lights and appliances with a smartphone or tablet. But this can also open a gateway to these devices and the information they hold. If criminals exploit these vulnerabilities and violate people's privacy, this makes them feel less secure and at risk of other human rights violations.

Cyber-crime like phishing and hacking is becoming more sophisticated all the time, evolving to find new vulnerabilities to exploit. We see attacks on our network every day, and they're increasing each year.

How are we tackling these?

We will never be able to stop all criminals. So as much as we'd like to, we can't say we will never be the victim of an attack. But we are doing our best to prevent and mitigate the effects of these, and protect our customers, our assets and the data we hold. Here are some of the ways we're doing that.

Empowering our customers

We give our customers advice on easy ways to protect their identities and data online. This includes information on:

- passwords – how to create secure ones and keep them safe
- what to do if you get a suspicious email
- ways to manage spam
- guidance on anti-virus software.

You can find out more about this [on our website](#).

Protecting our network

There will always be a risk of human error allowing a cyber-criminal to find a gap and steal information. So we educate and train our staff to protect our data from cyber-attack. This includes making sure anyone who handles our data knows what they need to do each day to keep this safe.

We also invest in protecting our physical and virtual networks. That is our physical infrastructure like wires, cables, pipes, cabinets and routers, and virtual networks like our cloud storage facilities.

Partnerships are critical in the fight against cyber-attacks. We work closely with the UK National Cyber Security Centre on the Active Cyber Defence programme. This disrupts cyber-attacks and makes it harder for cyber criminals to target the UK by strengthening email security and internet protocols.

You can find out more about this partnership [here](#).

A strong security team

We have a 3,000-strong team of cyber-experts across 15 security operations centres worldwide to protect our networks and our customers. This includes our first cyber-security research and development facility outside the UK in Sydney, Australia, set up in partnership with the New South Wales government. Their hard work identifying online threats means we block access to over 100 million attempted malware connections every month.

Investing in research and innovation

We work to develop cyber-security skills and carry out research to improve our ability to protect our customers. We spend approximately £50 million a year on security research and innovation.

Our BT Security Futures research team is based in Adastral Park, the largest test and integration facility in Europe. Home to 3,700 people, it is also where our Innovation Martlesham 'cluster' is based, where over 100 high-tech information and communications technology companies share knowledge and expertise.

To help create the next generation of digital specialists, we're supporting the Institute of Coding. This is a consortium of more than 60 universities, businesses and industry experts set up to tackle the UK's digital skills gap. We'll be providing staff and training for the Institute's undergraduate and masters programmes.



Encryption

As we mentioned earlier in this section, there is a balance between keeping communications confidential while still giving governments and authorities the information they need to fight crime. And the same applies to cyber-crime. One of the most-discussed topics in this area is encrypted communications.

We apply it to our services in the UK, for example to move data securely around our business. And we can remove that because we added it in the first place. So the government could tell us to do this if the law requires it. But we don't remove encryption added by someone else providing services over our network (like Facebook or Snapchat) simply because we technically can't. We also feel that we don't need (and shouldn't have) access to the content of communications which go across our network.

A photograph of a woman with long red hair and a man with dark hair looking at a smartphone together in a modern office or tech environment. The woman is holding the phone, and the man is pointing at the screen. They are both wearing business casual attire. The background is slightly blurred, showing office lights and equipment. A large purple semi-transparent rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the section header text.

2 Rights to freedom of expression online

Section 2

Rights to freedom of expression online

We believe people should always be free to get the content and services they want online, as long as they're not breaking the law. So we won't block anyone's access to material on the internet except under a very specific set of circumstances. We also believe it is essential to educate people on the best way to navigate and behave online.

Championing freedom of expression on the internet

We don't host much online content ourselves. But as a communications service provider, we give people access to the internet. So when our customers look at anything online, it's transmitted across our networks.

We believe in freedom of expression – people should be able to get the content and services they want, whenever they want, as long as it isn't against the law. But we also recognise that we can't ignore things like hate speech, fake news and online radicalisation, and their impact on society. It is a hard balance to get right, especially when you consider how much material is uploaded to the internet every day.

What does the law say about freedom of expression online?

In the UK, our right to freedom of expression is protected by the [Human Rights Act 1998](#). This doesn't mean it is an absolute right – it can be restricted. These restrictions must be set out in law, and necessary to protect the rights or reputations of others, or national security, public order or public health or morals (see [Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)). In July 2016, the United Nations (UN) declared that online freedom is a human right, saying that 'the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online'. They also emphasised how important it is for everyone to have access to the internet, condemning governments who block this during times of political or civil unrest.

'Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.'

UN Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

There have been important developments in this area over the last few years. First, the EU's 2015 [Net Neutrality Regulation](#) about open internet access is now in force. This says that communications service providers must have a proper legal basis for blocking or filtering content, and applies to all EU member states. In the UK, the [Open Internet Access \(EU Regulation\) Regulations 2016](#) give Ofcom the power to check and make sure companies are complying with this. This means we can't block anything we want, even if we think it is unethical. It must be illegal. We think this is a sensible approach, because our role is to give our customers the means to access the content they want.

The [Digital Economy Act 2017](#) introduced new measures to help the government achieve its ambition to make the UK the safest place for children online. (You can read more about the law in [Annex 1](#).)

What we're doing to protect freedom of expression

We are careful about what we block

We only filter or block access to content in certain, carefully defined circumstances. These include:

- child sexual abuse material that the [Internet Watch Foundation \(IWF\)](#) tells us about in the UK
- content we need to block to protect our customers or our network from harmful traffic
- if the law or a court says so, for example, if someone posts content that's infringing on someone else's intellectual property rights (we were actually involved in creating the formal process for courts to block live-streamed events, such as football matches, we suspect are pirated)
- in the UK, if a parent or guardian asks us to through our voluntary parental control tools. Customers can use these to stop their children seeing certain things online – there are different levels of blocking, or they can limit access to certain content at different times of the day.

We have clear Ts&Cs

In the rare situations where we host content ourselves (like on [bt.com](#) community forums, or [BT Community WebKit](#)), we let people share their opinions freely, while also protecting them from hateful or illegal material. But our terms and conditions are clear: customers must not upload or download any material or content that is offensive, abusive, indecent, defamatory, libellous, obscene, menacing, or that causes annoyance, inconvenience, needless anxiety or that is intended to deceive, or breaches confidence, copyright, privacy or any other rights.

If someone objects to something, we review it and remove it if we think it breaches these guidelines. We do this as quickly as we can – otherwise we could be held responsible for making illegal content available online.

Section 2

Rights to freedom of expression online continued



We educate people

It's important that the internet is an open place where people can express all sorts of views (as long as they're legal). So it is essential to educate people to navigate online and behave in the right way. One of the ways we are doing this is through Internet Matters, a not-for-profit organisation we helped set up in 2014. Through it we're working with other communications service providers to educate parents on how to keep their children safe online. And in 2017 we helped establish Get It Right, an education programme about online copyright infringement and what people can do to help stop it.

In support of Safer Internet Day 2019, we developed a lesson plan for teachers called 'Stop, think... do I consent?' This helps educate pupils on using the internet safely and what 'consent' means in terms of controlling their personal information and identity.

We encourage tech literacy

The lines between children's online and offline lives are increasingly blurred. So it is vital we give them the knowledge they need to make informed choices in the digital world. That's why, in 2015, we made a long-term commitment to build a culture of tech literacy for the UK. We're encouraging young people, from primary school age all the way through to starting work, to be curious about how technology works. This will help them stay in control of it, and ultimately become active creators rather than passive consumers. It's all about preparing the next generation to thrive in a digital world – and so far we've reached 2 million primary school children through our Barefoot computing programme in partnership with BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT.

Who deals with this at BT?

We consider privacy and free expression part of our wider governance structure. A BT Board sub-committee oversees progress on our human rights programme. Every day our human rights team works on integrating the UN Guiding Principles into our business, including training and supporting the teams which implement our human rights policy in our business units and regions. Our Group Corporate Affairs Director (a member of our Executive Committee) makes decisions on any human rights matter which our people can't resolve at an operational level.

Another Board sub-committee, the Investigatory Powers Governance Committee, oversees all our activity on investigatory powers in the UK and abroad.

We give updates in our annual report and our digital impact and sustainability report to show how we're dealing with our human rights activities and impacts.

What does the future hold?

Filtering and blocking obviously play an important role in reducing harmful content. But the fact that they're often targeted at sites hosting specific types of content limits their use. More and more we are finding harmful content is hosted and spread on social media. And while the companies running these sites have stepped up their efforts to tackle this, there's growing political and public pressure for some sort of regulatory intervention or independent oversight. There is also pressure on social media companies to be held more accountable, and for there to be more transparency around the decisions they make in this area.

We are keen to contribute to this debate and to work with others to help combat harmful content. But we don't think it is realistic or appropriate to expect us or online platforms to make judgement calls about what content is and isn't acceptable. Instead, there needs to be some kind of oversight by an independent organisation established in law – whether a court or another public body – to say what we should remove and why, within a reasonable period of time.

Online safety education programmes like Internet Matters play a crucial role in preventing harm. We would like to see the government bring together the many different education programmes in a more coordinated approach.

An update on our blocking activity in the UK

The table below shows information about material and sites we've blocked, compared to the last time we published this report in 2015.

In future we plan to publish this data annually in our digital impact and sustainability reports.

Context	Measure	2015 data	2019 update (Jan-Dec 2018)
The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) gives us a list of child sexual abuse images to block. There are thousands on their list at any one time. (For understandable reasons, the list isn't publicly available.) The IWF follows a strict procedure when deciding which images should be blocked. It's possible to appeal against its decisions.	Number of child sexual abuse images blocked	1,000-3,000	4,000-7,000
We may occasionally block a website incorrectly in our parental controls tools. If this is reported to us, we review it and may recategorise the site. When we get a complaint of a site being incorrectly blocked, we work with our specialist filtering supplier to review it and provide a response as quickly as possible, but usually no longer than seven days.	Number of reports received Percentage of sites re-categorised after review	609 26%	579 45%
Anyone is entitled to ask us to take down material from bt.com.	Number of requests	0	3
We sometimes get requests to suspend or take down material on sites we host as part of BT Community WebKit. For MyDonate (a charitable donation platform) we could be asked to modify or take down comments made about donations.	Number of requests to remove comments	20-30	0
We offer all our broadband customers parental controls to help them stop their children accessing inappropriate material.	Percentage of customers with children in their household who are using parental controls	36% (Around 60% including customers using our combined parental controls and traffic blocking tool.)	47% (Around 60% including customers using our combined parental controls and traffic blocking tool.)
There are a number of websites blocked by court orders (listed at www.ukispourtorders.co.uk). We briefly kept a record of the number of attempts to access these sites.	Number of attempts	375,000 per 24 hours (Mar-Nov 15)	We no longer collect this information.
Under the GDPR, anyone has the right to have their personal data erased (sometimes referred to as the 'right to be forgotten'). It only applies in certain circumstances and individuals can make a request verbally or in writing. When we get a request, we have one month to respond.	Number of requests	Not reported	75
We block 'phishing sites' falsely impersonating BT, often trying to extract personal details from our customers. The websites are copies of ours but link to third party sites – so we know they aren't genuine.	Number closed	9,442	6, 610

A hand holding a white card with a black chip, with a blurred laptop in the background.

3 What next? The future

Section 3

What next? The future

The Investigatory Powers Act

Legal challenges against the Investigatory Powers Act in the UK continue. The courts continue to debate the powers under the Act on retention of data and processing data in bulk, with differences of opinion between the European Courts. We would like to see a clear position on this – one which respects human rights. There's more about this in Annex 1.

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI)

Using AI in an ethical way is something all companies need to get right. The rise of big data (large datasets that computers analyse to reveal patterns and trends) and more and more powerful computers means we're seeing new opportunities for businesses to better use data.

We're also automating more processes and developing new services for their customers. For example, we use AI for network planning, keeping our networks secure by detecting threat patterns, and reducing nuisance calls. Our researchers work with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to lead innovation in research.

AI could have a hugely positive impact, for example by quickly and accurately diagnosing medical conditions, which means more effective treatment. But there are human rights challenges. The criteria it uses to make decisions must be clear. And the data it uses must be high quality – which means correct, complete, and bias-free.

We're involved in the debate as a member of techUK's digital ethics working group. And we responded to the UK government's consultation on the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation.

Campaigning for human rights

We are grappling with all these issues, and others, to come up with a position that fits with our commitment to respect human rights. And want to continue to play an active part in the debate.

We know the best way to tackle our human rights challenges is by working together. Which is why we've joined the [Global Network Initiative](#), a coalition of multinational corporations, non-profit organisations, investors and academics. It aims to protect and advance freedom of expression and privacy in the information and communications technology sector.

Make your voice heard

We would love to hear what you think about this report. So please email [us your comments](#).

Annex 1

Legal information

This annex has information on UK laws that apply in the area of privacy and free expression. It also includes details of some of the relevant court cases.

The Investigatory Powers Act 2016

The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA) became law in December 2016 and brings together nearly all the areas the government can ask for help from communication service providers like us.

We played an active role in getting this Bill passed. We made written submissions about the proposed content of the law, for example suggesting changes to the wording or commenting on appropriate safeguards. We also gave oral evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee.

The Investigatory Powers Act is being brought into force in stages and is expected to be fully implemented by the end of 2019. So it's still too early to give much detail about what it means in practice, but its main powers are:

- 1.1 intercepting the contents of a communication
- 1.2 interfering with equipment
- 1.3 acquiring and disclosing communications data
- 1.4 keeping communications data
- 1.5 bulk acquisition warrants for communications data

Here is some more information on each of these and how things differ from the previous regime.

1.1 Interception of the contents of a communication

The content of a communication can include:

- what's said in a phone call
- what's written in an email or text message
- a full URL or specific page of a website (see below).

Intercepting communications happens in 'real time'. Interception powers are potentially very intrusive. So authorities can only use them for limited purposes – mostly for national security or for preventing or detecting serious crime. Only a small number of public bodies (like the Intelligence Services and the police) can use these powers.

Authorities can apply for interception warrants which are targeted at a specific person or group of people, an organisation or premises. They can also apply for bulk warrants, which don't refer to a specific person or premises. The main purpose of these must be to intercept communications sent to or from people outside the British Islands. Only the intelligence agencies can apply for a bulk warrant.

'Bulk' isn't defined, either in the context of interception or of other capabilities. This means a bulk warrant covers a very broad area. So it could be anything from a small set of content, data or equipment to potentially a very large one.

The Secretary of State issues warrants, but in a radical change from the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, these must also be authorised by a judicial commissioner appointed to the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO), a new body which oversees the use of powers under the Investigatory Powers Act. This process has been described by the government as a 'double-lock', adding an independent, judicial safeguard.

1.2 Interfering with equipment

The Investigatory Powers Act is the first time UK law has clearly outlined powers relating to equipment interference. It gives authorities the power to interfere with any equipment so that they can obtain communications, equipment data or any other information. The Act doesn't define 'interference' but this probably includes listening, tapping, storing, monitoring, and scanning. So, for example, the Investigatory Powers Act allows authorities to access devices like smartphones, routers, servers, computers or tablets.

Like interception warrants, equipment interference warrants can be targeted or bulk. As they're potentially very intrusive, authorities can use them primarily for national security or for preventing or detecting serious crime.

The process for issuing and approving them is almost identical to the one for interception warrants. The only significant difference is that in limited circumstances, certain senior police officers can issue targeted warrants. These must also be approved by judicial commissioners.

Annex 1 continued

1.3 Acquiring and disclosing communications data

Communications data is information that describes the sender and recipient of a communication and how, when and where it came from and went to. It is essentially everything except the actual content of a communication. Communications data includes domain names up to the first slash. So, for example, 'www.bbc.co.uk' is defined as communications data. But 'www.bbc.uk/sport/football', which gives more detail about the material someone's accessed, is content.

The Investigatory Powers Act gives public authorities the right to make communications service providers give them access to communications data. This includes the Department of Health, the Health and Safety Executive and HMRC. This is fewer public authorities than under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. They can ask for communications data for lots of different reasons, including to protect public health or safety and for tax-related purposes.

If one of these authorities asks us we must give them data that we keep for our own business reasons and data that we're made to keep through a compulsory retention notice (there's more information on these below). They can also make us collect and provide data we don't already have, but can get.

When a public authority wants to obtain communications data, it must apply for a notice or authorisation. Under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, authorisations could be granted by senior officers in these public authorities. This has changed with the Investigatory Powers Act. A judicial commissioner must approve an application for an authorisation, unless there is an urgent need to obtain the communications data, or the authorisation is granted by the Intelligence Services for reasons of national security. The Investigatory Powers Commissioner is setting up the Office of Communications Data Authorisations (OCDA) to deal with these applications.

1.4 Keeping communications data

Communications service providers can be made to keep communications data that we might not normally keep for up to 12 months. To do this, the Secretary of State issues a retention notice, a judicial commissioner must approve. The Secretary of State must consider that it's necessary and proportionate to keep the information for one or more of the broad range of purposes allowed under the Act.

The Investigatory Powers Act added a new category of information that communication service providers can be made to keep – internet connection records. These show when and how someone has connected to the internet from a device, but not the content they've looked at. So for example, they could show apps someone has used or websites they've looked at, but not content (as mentioned above, this is only the domain name up to the first slash). Communications service providers don't normally generate and keep this information, so this is a significant development.

There are ongoing legal challenges around the UK's powers to make communications service providers keep data. This could also affect other bulk powers under the Investigatory Powers Act.

1.5 Bulk acquisition warrants for communications data

Although they're called 'acquisition' warrants, these are actually used to make communications service providers disclose communications data in bulk to the warrant holder. As with all other warrants, they're issued by the Secretary of State and approved by a judicial commissioner. Only the intelligence agencies can apply for these but only on the grounds of national security or serious crime.

This particular power has not been clearly set out in a law before. But in 2015 the government said that it had previously used it under section 94 of the Telecommunications Act 1984.

Our legal obligations under the Investigatory Powers Act

Communications service providers are legally obliged to take all reasonable steps to comply with and help implement the powers in the Investigatory Powers Act.

Technical capability notices

These underpin all the powers described in this section **except retention notices**. They can be used to make a communications service provider change their systems and products so they can deliver any of the activities described above.

National security notices

These can make a communications service provider take 'specified steps' in the interests of national security. They can't be used to make us do something that could be carried out under another section of the Act by issuing a warrant.

Both technical capability notices and national security notices must be issued by the Secretary of State and approved by a judicial commissioner.

The Investigatory Powers Commissioner

The Investigatory Powers Act requires the Prime Minister to appoint an Investigatory Powers Commissioner responsible for reviewing public authorities' use of investigatory powers. They also appoint judicial commissioners to the investigatory powers commissioner's office. Sir Adrian Fulford, a serving Lord Justice of Appeal was appointed as the commissioner. And, to date, 13 senior judges have been appointed as judicial commissioners. When it is fully up and running, IPCO expects to have around 70 staff, including inspectors, lawyers and technical experts.

The Watson case

Watson is an important case which challenged the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act 2014, which was replaced by the Investigatory Powers Act in 2016. At the end of 2016, just as the Investigatory Powers Act became law, the Court of Justice of the European Union gave its judgment in this case.

It found that:

- a) Indiscriminately retaining communications data goes against EU law. Keeping data like this must be objectively justified and targeted, for example, to particular people or a geographic area. This is tricky to understand. For example, if someone committed a serious crime, communications service providers could be forced to keep data for everyone living in that area, even if it's a very large area; this would still be 'targeted' because it had been objectively justified.
- b) A court or independent body must authorise access to data (except in urgent cases).
- c) Data that's kept should only be accessed for investigations involving serious crime (there's an unresolved issue which is before the Court of Justice of the European Union as to whether this also extends to national security).
- d) Authorities must tell anyone whose data they've accessed as long as it doesn't jeopardise an investigation.
- e) Retained data must be held within the EU.

When the government drafted the Investigatory Powers Act, it didn't anticipate the full extent of the outcome of the *Watson* case. The Act contradicts *Watson* because it means there's still a legal base for compulsory data retention in the UK.

After the judgment

Since the judgment, the courts have continued to debate the *Watson* case, and the Court of Appeal has referred it back to the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Watson also had implications for two further cases:

- *Privacy International* – this challenged the power of intelligence agencies to acquire bulk communications data and collect bulk personal data sets in the Investigatory Powers Tribunal a special court set up under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act.
- *Liberty* – this challenged all the bulk powers in the Investigatory Powers Act, although only the challenge to the retention provisions has been heard so far.

As things stand at the moment:

- In the *Liberty* case, the High Court has ruled that the Investigatory Powers Act doesn't allow indiscriminate retention, because it applies the tests of necessity and proportionality.
- The government has amended the Investigatory Powers Act following the *Liberty* judgement. Communications data authorisations will now need prior approval of a judicial commissioner (see section (1.3) above).
- The purposes for which an authorisation can be granted have also been amended, restricting access to some types of communications data in certain circumstances, for example investigating crime as opposed to serious crime. The government has argued that the *Watson* judgment doesn't apply to data retained and accessed for national security reasons since this is not in the EU's jurisdiction. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal has referred this question back to the Court of Justice of the European Union for a decision.

Big Brother Watch vs UK

Big Brother Watch vs UK is the first case on bulk interception powers in the European Court of Human Rights. In September 2018, the Court said that bulk interception rules could be legal in principle, as long as there are enough safeguards on access to the data. It found that the UK's rules under the old Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 weren't lawful because they didn't have these safeguards.

As this case was about the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and not the current Investigatory Powers Act, it doesn't affect the current rules. But it's important because it opens the door for an untargeted regime, which is a very different approach to that taken by the Court of Justice of the European Union in the *Watson* case. It's not helpful to have this difference in opinion from the two European Courts.

The Digital Economy Act 2017

The Digital Economy Act was designed to help the UK be a world leader in the digital economy. It focuses on three main areas relevant to free expression.

1 Parental controls

The Digital Economy Act introduced a provision which allows communications service providers to keep offering parental controls. It gives us the option to stop or restrict access to sites to protect children. We and other major communications service providers were consulted on this.

2 Age verification for pornography

The Digital Economy Act requires online pornography providers to check the age of their users. This is to try to stop anyone under 18 from accessing their sites. It is regulated by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC), who can act if pornography providers don't comply. This includes making communications service providers take steps to block pornographic content if they haven't put measures in place to check age – even though the content itself is legal. The Digital Economy Act also gives the BBFC the power to issue notices making communications service providers block 'extreme pornographic material', which is illegal (see the next section).

3 Extreme pornographic material

As mentioned above, the Digital Economy Act gives the BBFC the power to issue notices which make communications service providers block illegal 'extreme pornographic material'.

This is defined in the Digital Economy Act as material of a type described in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, which is 'grossly offensive, disgusting or otherwise of an obscene character'.

This approach could also be used for extremist content.

Case law on content blocking

In section 2 of our report we say that we only filter or block access to content in certain circumstances. These include if the law or a court says so, for example, if someone posts content that's infringing on someone else's intellectual property rights. Below are some legal cases that have shaped this approach.

Premier League and UEFA blocking orders

Since March 2017 both the Premier League and UEFA have had blocking orders for live football content against major communications service providers. These types of orders are not new. In fact, the law allows them for all types of content. They are used to stop sites that are using, or giving access to, content like music, film and videos without permission from the owners and infringing intellectual property rights.

We agree that these orders are sensible in principle. And normally, in cases like this, we would be neutral. But with these particular orders we, and some other major communications service providers, *supported* the applications to court and gave evidence. That is because we license content from both the Premier League and UEFA. So sites streaming that content unlawfully are also damaging our own private rights.

'Real-time' blocking

In 2017, the courts took a new approach to deal with blocking content streams in 'real time'. This is because pirated football streaming can start just before kick-off – so it is impossible for courts to act in advance. But if they acted after the streaming, all the value in the content would have gone because people have already seen the match.

We suggested a new form of court order which would let us, the Premier League and other communications service providers block future live-streamed events we suspect are pirated. We identify these using historical analysis based on key characteristics. To try to stop legitimate content being affected, blocks only apply while a match is on.

As this was a new approach, we used the remaining eight weeks of the 2016/17 season as a trial run. The new process worked well and the court agreed to use the order for the 2017/18 and the 2018/19 seasons.

We understand that other holders of rights or intellectual property may well want to do something similar. But we think they, and not the internet service provider, should pay for these. We only got involved in this case because we have an obvious commercial interest ourselves.

The Cartier case

Cartier brought a case in 2014 to extend the scope of the web-blocking regime to include trademark infringement as well as copyright infringement. The High Court found in their favour, deciding it could extend the scope of blocking injunctions to cover any private law infringement. It also confirmed earlier decisions that communications service providers should pay the implementation costs of these blocking injunctions. BT, EE, Sky, Virgin and TalkTalk appealed this decision, but the Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's decision.

In early 2018, alongside EE, we appealed this on the issue of costs to the Supreme Court. The Court found unanimously in our favour, concluding that in cases where rights holders alone stand to benefit from a blocking order, they should pay communications service providers for the implementation costs.

It remains to be seen what financial impact this judgment has. But we consider there was an important issue of principle at stake. This judgment will help make sure that courts take a proportionate approach with future applications.

Annex 2

Relevant laws around the world

We respect rights to privacy and free expression in every country we work in. In the most part, outside the UK, we provide voice, data and internet access to multinational companies and other organisations around the world. So in this section, we summarise the legal situation in the 20 countries where we do most of our business outside the UK.

Some countries have laws which mean we can't discuss certain issues related to investigatory powers. Where that is the case, we've said that there are restrictions on us and to refer to information published by that country's government (if available).

How our international services work

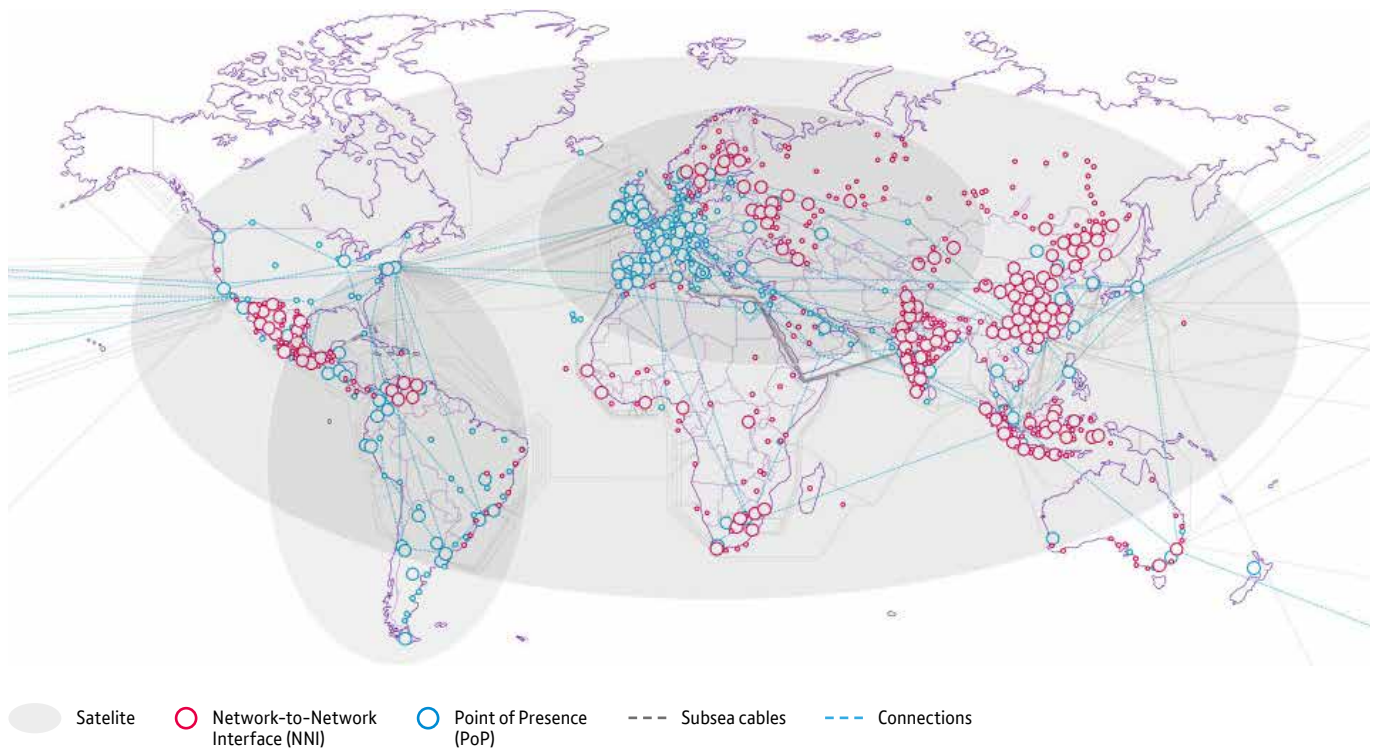
We make these services available through a core data network, which uses a technology called multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) to carry most of our customers' voice and data traffic around the globe. In that core network, there are routers and other equipment in our points of presence (PoPs), which customers use to connect to our core network.

We have about 5,000 PoPs around the world, with the 21 largest country markets (including the UK) making up over 90 per cent of our revenue.

We offer **voice services** using lots of different technologies. We do this in around 75 countries, where we have our own local operating licences. Where we don't have a licence, we offer voice services from local telecommunications companies. We currently do this in around 100 countries.

We sell **internet access** to customers in 49 countries, using our own core network. As with voice services, in most countries we need a licence from the local telecommunications regulator to run our own services. If we don't have one, we re-sell local communication providers' internet access instead.

Our global network reach



Annex 2 continued

What does this mean for the privacy and free expression of our global customers?

As our customers outside the UK are companies or other types of organisations, we're much less likely to have an impact on individuals' rights to privacy and free expression. But our customers' employees, and potentially their customers, would be affected if we had to give their communications and data to local governments, or block their access to content on the internet. To make sure we understand potential issues like these, we've worked with a law firm to review our operations in countries outside the UK.

Where we have a local licence or operate our own network, we might have to help legal authorities in ways that could affect people's rights to privacy or freedom of expression.

For example, a legal request could mean we have to hand over information about the services we provide, intercept voice calls or data, or block access to certain material on the internet. Also, because of a licence, we might have to follow requirements of local law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies. But in locations where we use another telecommunications company to deliver services to our customers, then that company will usually get these requests – we'll only be involved if the data involved belongs to us.

We have a specialist assurance team who regularly review our compliance with local investigatory powers and suggest ways to improve and safeguard this. We report any issues they raise to the local security manager and track them until we've resolved them.

The laws in some countries where we do business might be very intrusive when it comes to privacy and free expression. But we believe it is better to keep providing communications services that connect people than not be there at all.

To help businesses deal with these conflicts we sponsored [a report from the Business Network for the Rule of Law](#). This recommends what to do when national law conflicts with international human rights standards.

We are also a member of the Global Network Initiative (GNI), an organisation at the forefront of debates on privacy and free expression, and how they relate to government investigatory powers. This means we can engage with stakeholders to promote and build better understanding of these key human rights issues.

What is in this annex

Where we can, we show the following information for 1 January to 31 December 2018:

- **the number of requests for disclosure of data we've had.** This is the total number of legally valid requests (sometimes we don't have the data requested as we don't need it to operate our business. In this case, we will respond to the requestor explaining this but this still counts as a received request).
- **the number of lawful requests for the interception of communications.** Lots of countries put a time limit on how long interception can be carried out for. After this, a new order must be issued to keep intercepting the same communications. This helps make sure that requests are proportionate and that there is the right oversight. But it does mean we can get multiple orders and warrants in one year for the same interception. The numbers we report are for the total number of orders and warrants we've received, including renewals for existing lawful interceptions.

Where we don't provide this information, we give a reason why. This could be because:

- **it's illegal** – in some countries, publishing this type of information is against the law
- **we can't disclose it** – in some countries, while the law might not expressly stop us, authorities have told us we can't publish this type of information
- **it's published somewhere else** – if information is published for the whole industry by a government or other public body, we refer to those publications.

A note about blocking

The specific web pages we have to block change significantly because multiple URLs can relate to one item of illegal content. This means that giving the number of URLs we block in a particular country can be misleading in terms of the volume and type of content we're blocking. We think it is more useful to summarise which countries have a requirement to block content alongside the type of material we're expected to block.

Summary of interception and data disclosure requests

Country	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Australia	The Department for Home Affairs publishes information about lawful interception requests.	The Department for Home Affairs publishes information about data disclosure requests.
Belgium	2	1,438
Brazil	0	0
Canada	0	0
Colombia	0	0
France	Can't disclose	Can't disclose
Germany	The Federal Office of Justice publishes information about lawful interception requests.	The Federal Office of Justice publishes information about data disclosure requests.
Hong Kong	0	0
India	Illegal	Illegal
Indonesia	0	0
Italy	The Ministry of Justice publishes information about lawful interception requests.	3,650
Japan	0	0
Netherlands	The Ministry of Justice publishes information about lawful interception requests.	The Ministry of Justice publishes information about data disclosure requests.
Republic of Ireland	Can't disclose	Can't disclose
Singapore	0	0
South Africa	Illegal	Illegal
Spain	24	77
Sweden	0	0
Switzerland	Can't disclose	10
UK*	Illegal	Illegal
USA	Can't disclose	Can't disclose

Reasons why we don't disclose

It's illegal – in some countries, publishing this type of information is against the law.

We can't disclose it – in some countries, while the law might not expressly stop us, authorities have told us we can't publish this type of information.

It's published somewhere else – if information is published for the whole industry by a government or other public body, we refer to those publications.

* The Investigatory Powers (Disclosure of Statistical Information) Regulations came into force in June 2018. They will permit future disclosure of aggregated statistics relating to interception, mutual assistance and equipment interference warrants, and bulk interception and equipment interference warrants. The information can only be disclosed after certain periods of time have elapsed. Apart from these limited exceptions, unauthorised disclosure will remain illegal. Footnote added 29/08/2019.

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Australia

In Australia, we provide various networked IT services including data, voice and internet services. We operate from our Sydney office and employ more than 200 people.

Lawful interception

The Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979 (Cth) regulates access to telecommunications content and data in Australia (including intercepting communications in specific circumstances). Under this Act, intercepting telecommunications is only justified for law enforcement and national security purposes. The only people who can issue a warrant to intercept communications are a judge, a nominated member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, the attorney-general or the director-general of security (in an emergency).

Data retention

There are two ways data is kept in Australia.

- The **Stored Communications Regime** (Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act, Part 3-1A) allows certain law enforcement agencies to serve preservation notices on communication service providers. These notices order them to keep any communications stated in the preservation notice. There are three different types of preservation notice:
 - historic domestic preservation notices
 - ongoing domestic preservation notices
 - foreign preservation notices.

A domestic preservation notice can stay in force over the relevant communications for a maximum of 90 days. A foreign preservation notice can stay in force for 180 days.

- The **Data Retention Regime** (Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act, Part 5-1A, as amended by the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Act 2015) requires communication service providers to keep certain categories of data for two years. This data doesn't include the content or substance of a communication. Communication service providers must also keep certain types of subscriber information while an account's active and for two years after it's closed.

Data disclosure

The Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act also allows certain law enforcement and security agencies to access telecommunications data held by communications service providers. Requests for access to data are independently overseen by the commonwealth ombudsman or, in the case of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, by the inspector-general of intelligence and security.

Web blocking

Under the Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth), internet service providers must try to stop telecommunications networks and facilities being used for crime. The Australian Federal Police use this power to instruct internet service providers to block websites which contain child exploitation material through the Access Limitation Scheme. It's also used to tackle cyber-crime.

The Australian Media and Communications Authority has a remit under Schedule 5 of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (Cth) to require internet service providers to stop access to certain content (for example, child sexual abuse content) which is hosted outside of Australia. It has a similar remit under Schedule 7 of the Broadcasting Act for content services located in Australia.

Under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth), rights holders can apply to the Federal Court for an injunction that requires internet service providers to take reasonable steps to block access to overseas-operated websites which infringe copyright or facilitate copyright infringement. This power was introduced by the Copyright Amendment (Online Infringement) Act 2015 (Cth).

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests
Australia	The Department for Home Affairs publishes information about lawful interception requests.	The Department for Home Affairs publishes information about data disclosure requests.

Belgium

In Belgium, we provide various networked IT services including data, voice and internet services. We operate from our Brussels office and employ around 300 people.

Lawful interception

Under Article 90ter of the Code of Criminal Procedure, communication service providers must co-operate with judiciary authorities when it comes to lawful interception.

An examining magistrate must order an interception of the content of communications. This can be a warrant or verbally in an emergency (with confirmation), as defined in Articles 90ter to 90decies of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which was modified by the Law of 25 December 2016 on Internet Investigatory Powers. The examining magistrate can ask for communications to be intercepted:

- in exceptional cases
- when necessary for investigations
- when there are strong indications that the communications relate to offences listed in Article 90ter §2 Code of Criminal Procedure
- when other investigations are not enough to find out the truth.

The warrant must be sent to the public prosecutor (Article 90quater §1 Code of Criminal Procedure).

In exceptional circumstances the public prosecutor can order the content of communications to be intercepted. This can happen when the aim is to catch a suspect while they're committing a crime (the relevant crimes are listed in Article 90ter, §5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

If national security is at stake, the director general of the intelligence and safety services can order a draft authorisation for interception. This will either be accepted or rejected by a special committee in charge of surveillance. This process is governed by Articles 18/9, 18/10, 18/17 and 44 of the Intelligence and Safety Services Act of 30 November 1998.

The General Military Intelligence and Safety Service (**GMISS**) can also intercept communications that come from abroad. In December each year, the GMISS produces a list of organisations and institutions whose communications it plans to intercept, with a justification for each. The minister of defence has 10 days to accept or reject the list.

If it's urgent, and there's a clear need, the GMISS can intercept communications for organisations or institutions that aren't on the list. But the GMISS must let the minister of defence know about this as soon as possible and not later than the next business day after the start of the interception. If the minister disagrees with the interception, they can stop it (Article 44/3, 1° Intelligence and Safety Services Act).

Data retention

Data retention obligations are set out in Article 126 of the Electronic Communication Act of 13 June 2005, which was amended by the Law of 29 May 2016.

Communication service providers have a general obligation to keep subscriber information for 12 months after someone's subscription ends. They must keep location and traffic data for 12 months after the date of a communication. But the period during which the judicial authorities can access this data will vary from six to 12 months (following the rules about data disclosure set out below). This depends on the offence (Articles 46bis of the Code of Criminal Procedure for identification data and 88bis of the Code of Criminal Procedure for geolocation and traffic data).

Data disclosure

Communication service providers must co-operate with judiciary authorities when it comes to data disclosure (Articles 46bis of the Code of Criminal Procedure for identification data and 88bis of the Code of Criminal Procedure for geolocation and traffic data).

The public prosecutor and the examining magistrate can require communication service providers to give them retained data to identify an end user, and the telecommunications services the user subscribes to (Article 46bis, §1 Code of Criminal Procedure). In an extreme emergency, the public prosecutor and the examining magistrate can authorise this verbally, but they must confirm it in writing as soon as they can afterwards (Articles 46bis, §1 and 56, §2 Code of Criminal Procedure).

An examining magistrate can require the disclosure of traffic and geolocation data through a written warrant. They can only do this where there are serious indications that crimes are taking place which could result in a sentence of one year or more in prison, and where the examining magistrate believes it is necessary to get to the truth (Article 88bis of the Code of Criminal Procedure). The justified order should describe:

- the circumstances that mean the measure is needed
- why the measure is proportionate in relation to the targeted person's privacy
- the length of the disclosure request (Article 88bis Code of Criminal Procedure).

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Belgium continued

In exceptional circumstances the public prosecutor might need access to traffic and geolocation data if a suspect is caught committing a specific offence. These special rules apply to terrorism acts. For certain offences, the examining magistrate must confirm the disclosure of traffic and geolocation data by the public prosecutor within 24 hours. In urgent cases, the public prosecutor can make a verbal request for this traffic and geolocation data, but must confirm this in writing as soon as possible (Article 88bis §1 in fine Code of Criminal Procedure).

Under a Royal Decree of 12 October 2010 communication service providers must co-operate with the intelligence and safety services. The director-general of the relevant intelligence and safety service must send in a written and justified request for retained data, as per Articles 16/1, 18/2, 18/3, 18/7 and 18/8 of the Intelligence and Safety Services Act.

In an emergency, the relevant director-general (or their delegate) can make a verbal request for access to this data. They must confirm this in writing as soon as possible and within the timings set out in the Intelligence and Safety Services Act.

Web blocking

Courts can order the domain name system (DNS) to block a website with pirated content (DNS is an internet protocol which links a URL to an internet address. Providers who control the DNS can block a website and stop a user from accessing it). But the power of the courts to order broader blocking methods was rejected in the case *SABAM v Tiscali (Scarlet)*, where a Brussels Court of First Instance imposed a broad blocking order against the internet service provider Scarlet. This case, which was then confirmed in *SABAM v Netlog*, ruled that there's no obligation to install a general filter on communications made available by an internet service provider.

Under Article 39bis, §§ 5 to 8 and 89 Code of Criminal Procedure, the public prosecutor and examining magistrate can order a website to be blocked if:

- the data is the object of an offence or has been produced by an offence
- the data goes against public order or public morality, represents a danger to data stored, treated or transferred via a system, or represents a danger to the system itself.

The grounds for this type of blocking are highly debated and most blocked websites are illegal gambling sites. Blocking happens on a case-by-case basis – there's no central list of websites that are blocked.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Belgium	2	1,438

Brazil

We've worked in Brazil for more than 15 years. We have around 700 employees there who manage corporate networks, serving hundreds of organisations from the public and private sectors in various industries.

We also have extensive terrestrial and satellite networks with hundreds of PoPs and thousands of connections. Our infrastructure there includes two teleports (satellite ground stations), an advanced datacentre and a security operations centre, which monitors cyber-security issues across BT's global network.

Lawful interception

Under Law No. 9,296/1996 (called the '**Wiretap Law**' from now on), a court can issue an order requiring a communications service provider to intercept traffic on its network. Only the police authority or the public prosecutor can request these in specific circumstances, for example as part of a criminal investigation or legal proceedings.

Data retention

The Internet Law (Law No. 12,965/2014) requires communication service providers to keep internet connection logs for a year. The police, an administrative authority or public prosecutor can ask them to keep it for longer than a year. Retention is regulated by Presidential Decree 8,771 of 11 May 2016.

As well as this, ANATEL's Resolution No. 614/2012 requires communication service providers to keep connection logs for at least one year. Under the Resolution, connection records include:

- the date and time of the beginning and end of internet access
- the length of internet access
- the IP address used
- other information that allows the access terminal used to be identified.

The Internet Law stops internet access providers from keeping users' application logs. This means they can't keep the content of internet activity or logs of which applications people have used. The Internet Law also separately provides that an internet access provider must keep its application access logs confidential for six months.

Data disclosure

Under Article 22 of the Internet Law, communications data can only be disclosed when requested by the police authority, the public prosecutor, other law enforcement agencies, or any other interested party. Data can be requested for evidence gathering in civil or criminal legal procedures and must be authorised by a court order.

Users' personal data, particularly their name, marital status, occupation, address and name of parents, must be provided by communication service providers if the police authority, the public prosecutor or other administrative authority ask for it – they don't need a court order. This is defined in law under the Internet Law, the Money Laundering Law (Law No. 12,683/2012) and the Organised Crime Law (Law No. 12,850/2013).

Web blocking

There are restrictions to blocking, monitoring, filtering or analysing the contents of internet data packets that are consistent with the principle of net neutrality.

While judges have the power to issue court orders requiring internet service providers to block access to illegal content, they usually prefer to order the party hosting the illegal content to remove it. This is because blocking access might not be proportionate. In the case of child sexual abuse material or unauthorised disclosure of sexual content, there's a notice and takedown provision under the Internet Law. Otherwise, there are no general laws requiring content to be blocked.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Brazil	0	0

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Canada

In Canada, we provide various networked IT products including data, voice and internet services. We operate from our Toronto office and employ around 70 people.

Lawful interception

The Radiocommunication Regulations generally prohibit intercepting radio communications. But there are exceptions – for example, for emergencies, investigations by public officials, government spectrum management and communications service provider network security.

There are several circumstances where interception is allowed under the Criminal Code (as amended by the Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act in 2015). These are:

- by getting both one of the communicating parties' consent and a public officer's order (a public officer can be a peace officer and any public officer responsible for law enforcement)
- if an agent of the state believes there's a risk of bodily harm to the person who consented to the interception under the previous point
- with a formal warrant from a judge or an urgent warrant from a justice of the peace.

In an urgent situation, where there are no other means available under the Code, interceptions can also be allowed to stop serious harm to people or property.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Services Act establishes conditions where the Canadian Security Intelligence Service can get a warrant from a judge if there's a threat to national security or to collect foreign intelligence.

Part V.1 of the National Defence Act establishes the conditions under which the Communications Security Establishment of Canada can get approval from the minister of national defence to intercept private communications involving foreign entities outside Canada. This is allowed as long as there's no other way to reasonably get the information, and provided that Canadians' privacy interests are protected.

Data retention

The Code can require communications interception over a period of time. A warrant or production order specifies the data to be kept, for example, transmission data or tracking data, and how long for. This is done on a case-by-case basis.

Data disclosure

Law enforcement authorities and the security services can require communication service providers to provide data in the same way as interception (see 'Lawful interception' above).

Canada's Competition Act allows the commissioner of competition to apply to a judge of a superior or county court for the disclosure of data. This disclosure is made according to the production order.

Under the Competition Act, the commissioner can also get a search warrant, which might include the reproduction of data found on a computer system.

Web blocking

Superior courts have wide powers to grant blocking orders. Under the Child Pornography Reporting Act, internet service providers must notify authorities about any situations involving child sexual abuse material.

The Quebec government has adopted a law (Bill 74) to compel communication service providers to block illegal gambling websites. A court challenge is currently going on to decide whether or not this is constitutional, and it isn't being applied while the case continues.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Canada	0	0

Colombia

In Colombia, we provide a range of services including data and internet access. We employ around 200 people in our office and data centre facilities in Bogota.

Lawful interception

Generally, intercepting communications can only take place through a judicial order that meets the criteria set out in relevant laws. But interception can also take place without a court order to allow interception for the purposes of a criminal investigation by the public prosecutor. This is allowed as long as the public prosecutor issues an order to the judicial police who'll be in charge of the technical aspects of the relevant operation and processing. This exception is allowed under Law 1453/2011, which amends the Colombian Criminal Procedure Code, and Decree 1704/2012 (compiled in Decree 1078/2015).

These orders last for six months. They can be extended if the public prosecutor decides there are still grounds for interception. Any extension must be examined and authorised by a judge (*juez de control de garantías*). The order must be issued during an ongoing investigation and with the purpose of finding evidence. Within 24 hours of getting a report from the judicial police, the public prosecutor must appear before the relevant judge to examine the legality of the interception operation.

Interception for the purposes of intelligence and counter-intelligence is allowed if certain conditions are met, under Law 1621/2013 (regulated by Decree 857/2014).

The government carries out interceptions after the relevant communications service provider grants access. The provider doesn't directly take part in any interception operations.

Data retention

Generally, all information about a subscriber of a service must be kept for at least five years. Under the Commercial Code, all commercial documents and information must be kept for at least ten years.

Decree 1704 states that communication service providers must keep certain subscriber data for five years. This data includes a subscriber's ID, invoicing information and type of connection, for example voice or data. Under this Decree, the communications service provider should also give the Office of the Attorney General specific information, like zone/sector, signal strength and geographic coordinates that might help identify the terminal or devices used in a particular communication. Decree 1704 applies when there's a judicial investigation (criminal prosecution) and the public prosecutor needs to have access to certain information as evidence.

Communication service providers must give information to certain authorities about a subscriber's communications' activities under Law 1621/2013 (see 'Data disclosure' below). This information includes:

- their technical identification data
- the location of the cells where the relevant terminals are
- any other information that might help identify where someone is.

This law applies to all intelligence and counter-intelligence activity.

Resolutions No. 912/2008 and 3066/2011 (as modified by Resolution 511/2017) require that communication service providers must keep certain subscriber information.

Data disclosure

Any government body which is responsible for law enforcement or prosecuting or investigating crime can ask for data disclosure. This includes the public prosecutor and other government agencies like tax authorities. There are also certain legal requirements which must be fulfilled.

Under Law 1581/2012, personal information can only be provided to a public authority if the authority's carrying out its duties or a judicial order has been issued.

Web blocking

Internet service providers can be asked to block access to internet sites or services either by a judicial order issued by a competent judge or public prosecutor, or by orders issued by administrative authorities with an investigative capacity (for example, the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce, the Banking Superintendence, the Ministry of Communications, and the Financial Analysis and Information Unit). Most web blocking requests in Colombia are to do with child sexual abuse content.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Colombia	0	0

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

France

We employ over 1,000 people across France and have offices in four cities. Our head office is in Paris. We provide services to large companies, including multinationals and multi-sites, which have complex communication and information system needs.

In France, we support major companies in the finance, telecoms, industrial and services sectors with BT standard products, managed services and the outsourcing of information and communication systems.

Lawful interception

Interception can be required through administrative requests or judicial requests under French law.

- According to the French Homeland Security Code (the **CSI**), the contents of a communication can only be intercepted for national security purposes – so that's national defence, prevention of terrorism, prevention of organised crime and delinquency. To do this a minister in charge of homeland security, defence, justice, economy, budget or customs (or their delegate) must make an administrative request, which is then approved by the prime minister following an opinion from the National Intelligence Control Commission. If the situation is urgent, then it's possible that the Commission is only informed of the interception.
- Under the French Code of Criminal Procedure a judicial request for interception is needed for detecting or investigating cases of serious crime – for example, money laundering, organised gang crime or where the criminal penalty is two or more years in prison. Depending on the circumstances, an investigative judge, or a public prosecutor can authorise the request with written permission from the liberty and custody judge.

Communication service providers must put measures in place to comply with any requests.

Data retention

Under the Postal and Electronic Communications Code, communication service providers must keep data about voice and data services for up to a year. This includes subscriber information, names, addresses and communications data. It also includes passwords and payment information if the subscription is to online public communications. After the *Digital Rights Ireland*, *Tele2 Sverige AB* and *Watson* cases, several associations asked the French Council of State to check if existing legislation governing data retention and administrative data access requests was legal. The claim wasn't upheld.

Data disclosure

The Code of Criminal Procedure and other relevant legislation provides for the disclosure of communications data to judicial authorities, police officers, public prosecutors or an investigative judge. A judicial authorisation isn't always needed.

The protection authorities **HADOPI** (intellectual property) and **ANSSI** (information systems security) can also ask communication service providers to give them data for investigations, findings and judicial proceedings related to:

- copyright and related rights infringement
- criminal offences
- preventing unauthorised access to automated data processing systems.

Under the French Homeland Security Code, the public service in charge of security interception (the *Groupeement Interministériel de Contrôle*) can require that communication service providers give them data for security purposes. These requests must be approved by the prime minister or their delegate.

Under Article L.34-1 of the Postal and Electronic Communications Code, French customs agents can require communication service providers to give them data for customs investigations.

Web blocking

A judicial authority can make internet service providers block access to particular sites, to stop damage caused by content published online. And, under intellectual property law, the court can make an internet service provider carry out any measure necessary to stop the infringement of their copyright or associated rights.

The Central Office for Action to Fight against Crime related to Information Technology and Communication might also require internet service providers to block sites which carry child sexual abuse material, or promote terrorism, racial violence or hatred. A request to remove this type of material must first be made to the publisher of the website or the hosting service provider. If they don't reply in 24 hours, the Central Office can ask an internet service provider to block the sites.

French internet service providers have also been ordered to block access to pro-terrorism websites.

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests
France	Can't disclose	Can't disclose

Germany

We've been working in Germany for more than 20 years and provide global network and IT services to around 900 customers.

We run our own network infrastructure in Germany, as well as our own Cityfibre Networks in four major German cities and three data centres which provide IT services and connections to our international IP network. We have five offices in Germany and around 800 employees. We provide data services including internet access, voice over internet protocol (VoIP) and cloud-based services.

Lawful interception

The German Telecommunications Act allows intelligence and law enforcement agencies to intercept communications, subject to limitations set out in the German Constitution.

The right to privacy of telecommunications is protected under Article 10. Interception is authorised by a court order, which authorities must get beforehand, and must also meet certain requirements – for example, if someone's committed or tried to commit a serious crime, or if there's an imminent risk of a major attack on public security, like a terrorist attack. The legal bases for these court orders are in both federal law (especially section 100e of the German Criminal Procedure Code and section 23a of the German Customs Investigations Act) and in various regional acts on police powers to safeguard public security.

The Criminal Procedure Code allows the public prosecutor's office to issue an interception order in an urgent situation, which the competent court must confirm within three working days (section 100e (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code). The Federal Criminal Police Office Act also allows the president of the Federal Criminal Police Office to grant an interception order, as long as they then get judicial approval.

As well as this, the Law on the Restriction of Privacy of Correspondence, Post and Telecommunications (called the '**G-10 Law**' from now on) allows the intelligence services to intercept a person's communications without a court order. This can happen if they are suspicious that this person has committed certain offences which, among other things, endanger national security (section 1(1) no.1 and section 3 of the G-10 Law). The federal ministry of the interior must order any interception activities requested by federal intelligence services (section 10 of the G-10 Law) and the G-10 Commission must approve these in advance (section 15(5) of the G-10 Law).

The exception is for situations where danger is imminent – in this case subsequent approval is enough (section 15(6) of the G-10 Law). The competent supreme authority of the state is responsible for orders for interception by state intelligence services (section 10 of the G-10 Law). The provisions for approving these measures must be set out in the respective state law (section 16 of the G-10 Law).

The G-10 Law also allows German intelligence services to carry out untargeted interception in certain circumstances – that is intercepting certain geographic regions, rather than a specific individual suspect. This is allowed when interception is to stop:

- armed attacks, including terrorist attacks, on Germany
- certain serious crimes, including international drugs trafficking and money laundering (section 5 of the G-10 Law)
- danger to the life or wellbeing of an individual who is abroad, where this danger directly affects the interests of Germany (section 8 of the G-10 Law).

An authorised court order isn't needed for this but the federal ministry of the interior must set the geographic parameters of the untargeted interception. The Parliamentary Control Panel must also approve this in advance, unless there is imminent danger, in which case subsequent approval is enough (section 14(2) of the G-10 Law).

Anyone providing publicly available telecommunications services to more than 10,000 subscribers must install a surveillance system which complies with technical requirements set out in the German Telecommunications Surveillance Directive. Communication service providers can choose to carry out legal interception in house or delegate it to agents. Communication service providers, or their agents, must always be available for requests by phone and process them during normal business hours.

Data retention

Under federal legislation adopted in 2008 (sections 113a and following of the Telecommunications Act), providers of public telecommunications services were required to keep subscriber information and traffic data for six months. But in 2010 the German Federal Constitutional Court held this legislation to be contrary to the German Constitution, because it was a disproportionate restriction of the right to privacy.

Data retention legislation adopted in 2015 limits the data that is retained – for example, emails aren't included. It also limits the length of the storage, which is normally ten weeks, but only four weeks for location data. Processes to comply with this legislation had to be implemented by 1 July 2017.

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Germany continued

In late 2016, the CJEU held that UK and Swedish legislation that required communication service providers to store subscriber and traffic data wasn't compatible with the EU Charter of Human Rights. One of the reasons the CJEU gave was that the storage requirement must be limited to specific situations that could justify a temporary retention of data (see the *Tele2 Sverige AB* and *Watson* judgments).

Although the CJEU decision didn't directly concern German data retention legislation, the Court's reasoning suggested that Germany's legislation might not conform to EU law. For this reason, a German Superior Administrative Court granted a preliminary injunction to a German internet service provider that had chosen not to implement current legislation because of constitutional and EU law concerns. After this decision, the German Federal Network Agency stated it would stop enforcing the existing legislation until the end of the main proceedings, which might include a referral of the matter to the CJEU. Another German Administrative Court confirmed this position in favour of a German communications service provider earlier this year.

Data disclosure

Under the Telecommunications Act, data can only be disclosed if the requesting party is legally authorised, and the disclosing party is legally authorised to disclose the data.

The main avenue for disclosure of subscriber data is an automated procedure under which the German Federal Network Agency is tasked with retrieving data and forwarding it to the public authority that has asked for it (e.g. the police). This means that communication service providers must store all subscriber data on a server that the German Federal Networks Agency can always access (section 112 of the Telecommunications Act).

A prior judicial order isn't needed for the disclosure of subscriber data (i.e. not traffic or content data). If the automated procedure doesn't deliver the right results, public authorities can also ask communication service providers directly for so called manual disclosure of subscriber data (section 113 of the Telecommunications Act). Communication service providers can choose to keep these subscriber files in-house or pass this on to a third-party supplier.

By contrast, in general, disclosure of traffic data does need a prior judicial order, usually requested by the public prosecutor's office (sections 100e and 101a of the German Criminal Procedure Code). If the situation is urgent, the public prosecutor's office can issue a disclosure order, as long as it's ratified by a competent court within three working days (sections 100e and 101a of the Criminal Procedure Code). Competent authorities can order disclosure of traffic data obtained as part of any interception activities carried out under the G-10 Law (see 'Lawful interception' above) without a court order, as long as the disclosure serves specific purposes (e.g. where they need it to stop a serious crime) (section 4(4) of the G-10 Law).

Web blocking

Under the German Interstate Treaty on Broadcasting and Telemedia, an internet service provider can be required by court order to block access to sites containing illegal content. Because no blocking order was ever made, the German Access Impediment Act about blocking child sexual abuse content was repealed after two years and hasn't been replaced. Instead, the German Interstate Treaty on the Protection of Minors in the Media makes it a legal obligation for every internet service provider to check whether its content is appropriate for children.

Under statutory law, various German courts have held that access providers can be liable for failing to block access to websites containing illegal content – for example content that infringes intellectual property rights. But according to a recent decision of the German Federal Supreme Court, there's no room for this liability where rights' owners haven't taken reasonable steps to take direct action against the people responsible for the illegal online content.

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests
Germany	The Federal Office of Justice publishes information about lawful interception requests.	The Federal Office of Justice publishes information about data disclosure requests.

Hong Kong

We've been working in Hong Kong since 1985, when we opened our first office in the Asia-Pacific region. We have around 250 employees here and provide various services to multinational customers with global networked IT solutions.

Lawful interception

Law enforcement agencies must get authorisation before intercepting communications or carrying out covert surveillance under the Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance (Cap. 589, Laws of Hong Kong). There are different types of authorisation which depend on the type of interception and surveillance. They can both last for up to three months.

Judicial authorisations must be in writing from a panel judge and supported by an affidavit.

Executive authorisations must also be in writing, with a supporting statement. These come from the authorising officer within the Customs and Excise Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Immigration Department or the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Executive authorisation is used for less intrusive interception and surveillance. The conditions for issuing or renewing an authorisation are:

- the interception or surveillance is to stop or detect serious crime or protect public security
- there is a reasonable suspicion that any person has been, is or is likely to be involved in a serious crime or a threat to public security
- the interception or covert surveillance is necessary for, and proportionate to, these purposes.

The Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance also contains provisions for emergency authorisations, which can be granted for 48 hours.

The Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance doesn't apply to intercepting telecommunications transmitted by radiocommunications (apart from mobile phones) or interceptions authorised in other ways. This includes interception carried out under a court order authorising the search of any premises or the seizure of any evidence. Other examples of interception include postal packets held by the Post Office, communications with inmates in prison, and communications of inmates of psychiatric hospitals with outsiders.

Under the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106, Laws of Hong Kong), the chief executive of Hong Kong can order any class of messages to be intercepted to carry out authorisations under the Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance. They can also order this to detect whether any communications services are contravening the Telecommunications Ordinance.

At the moment there aren't any rules which require communication service providers to maintain call interception capabilities in Hong Kong.

Data retention

Under the Telecommunications Ordinance, the chief executive can issue regulations about the time and conditions that messages and other documents connected with a telecommunications service can be kept (section 37 of the Telecommunications Ordinance). But as yet, no action has been taken under this authority. So there is generally no prescribed time period for how long communication service providers must keep call data.

Under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486, Laws of Hong Kong), communication service providers must take all practical steps to make sure they don't keep personal data for longer than necessary to fulfil the original purpose they collected it for.

Data disclosure

There aren't any statutory requirements specifically requiring communication service providers to disclose telecommunications data. But there don't appear to be any restrictions under Hong Kong law to stop someone asking the courts for a disclosure order against communication service providers.

A common example of a court application like this would be an application for a '*Norwich Pharmacal*' discovery order. This is where the applicant tries to get a court order to make a person disclose information or documents relevant to the misconduct or wrongdoing of someone else, and which can then be used in an action by the applicant against that person. For example, disclosure orders have been used to compel internet service providers to disclose the identity of internet subscribers who have allegedly infringed music companies' copyright using peer-to-peer technology.

Certain regulatory authorities can compel communication service providers to disclose information as part of a regulatory investigation, subject to exceptions like legal privilege. These include the Competition Commission and the Communications Authority, which have concurrent jurisdiction to enforce the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619, Laws of Hong Kong).

Web blocking

There aren't any statutory requirements specifically requiring communication service providers to block access to internet content in Hong Kong. But there don't appear to be any restrictions to stop someone seeking an injunction order that would compel communication service providers to block websites. For example, section 21L(1) of the High Court Ordinance (Cap. 4, Laws of Hong Kong) gives courts a broad power to grant injunctions as long as it's 'just or convenient to do so'. So it's possible that a court order could order a communications service provider to block a website.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Hong Kong	0	0

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

India

We have a long history of operating and investing in India, having started in 1987. With headquarters in New Delhi, BT India has operations in six key cities: New Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai. We started our commercial operations in 2007 when we got a licence to operate international and national long distance services.

Our main delivery hub is based in Gurgaon, New Delhi. It covers all our lines of businesses and customers, from UK consumers to large multinational businesses. It's also the largest BT building in the world, with almost 5,000 people working there.

Lawful interception

Interception, monitoring and collection of any information (including traffic data) are governed by:

- the Information Technology Act 2000 (the 'IT Act')
- the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules 2009
- the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Monitoring and Collecting Traffic Data or Information) Rules 2009.

(Collectively, these are called the 'IT Rules'.)

'Information' is broadly defined as including data, text, images, sound, voice, codes, computer programs, software and databases, microfilm and computer-generated microfiche.

The Indian Telegraph Act 1885 and the Indian Telegraph Rules 1951 (the '**Telegraph Laws**') regulate the monitoring of messages. This is again broadly defined to include any communication sent by telegraph or given to a telegraph officer to be sent or delivered. The terms 'information' and 'messages' are collectively referred to as 'communications'. The IT Act, IT Rules and Telegraph Laws are collectively referred to as the '**Data Interception Laws**'.

The telecom licence agreements we've entered into with the Indian Department of Telecommunications (the '**Licence Agreements**') also allow certain government agencies (the '**Monitoring Agencies**') to monitor communications traffic on a communications service provider's network.

Typically, an authorised government agency will serve a communications service provider with an order to intercept communications. This must be issued by a competent authority under the Data Interception Laws. Competent authorities include the secretary to the government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs, the secretary in charge of the Home Department and the secretary to the government of India in the Department of Information Technology under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

The interception regime in India is evolving. Since October 2014, the government has required all communication service providers to connect their networks to a centralised monitoring system (**CMS**) under the terms of the Licence Agreements.

The CMS was set up by the government to allow certain law enforcement agencies to intercept and monitor mobile and land-based telecommunications and internet-based traffic in India in real-time. This includes all communications. The CMS allows authorised law enforcement agencies to remotely access a communications service provider's network at any time without the provider knowing about this.

Data retention

The Data Interception Laws govern the retention of intercepted and monitored communications. An authorised government agency can compel a communications service provider to keep communications through an order from the competent authority. Under the Licence Agreements, communication service providers must keep records of all communications exchanged on their network for one year. This can include detailed call logs showing dates, and duration and time of each call. Relevant authorities can require that this data is kept for longer periods of time.

Data disclosure

The Data Interception Laws also govern the disclosure of intercepted or monitored communications. An order from the competent authority directing a communications service provider to intercept or monitor communications can also ask for their disclosure. The Monitoring Agencies are also allowed to access the communication records maintained by the communications service provider under the terms of the Licence Agreements.

Web blocking

BT India's operations don't control access to the internet or information held on it. And we don't do any form of web blocking.

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests
India	Illegal	Illegal

Indonesia

We've been working in Indonesia since 2006. We have around 130 employees based in our office in Jakarta. We provide coverage throughout Indonesia through partnerships with local providers.

Lawful interception

In general, interception is allowed for investigations into criminal acts that are punishable by more than five years in prison. The relevant laws are: Law No.36 of 1999 on Telecommunications (as amended) (the '**Telecommunications Law**') and Law No.11 of 2008 on Information and Electronic Transactions Law (the '**IET Law**').

Interception can take place after a formal written interception request from the attorney general, the chief of the police or a government investigator.

Interception requests don't need to be ratified by a court order and there are no general limitations on how long a request can last. The length of an interception order depends on the offence and the subject-specific legislation used to grant the order. For example, under Law No.15 of 2003 on the Enactment of Government Regulations In Lieu of Law No.1 of 2002 on the Eradication of Terrorism Criminal Act (as amended) (the '**Terrorism Law**') the limitation time is one year. Under Law No.17 of 2011 on State Intelligence (the '**Intelligence Law**'), it is six months, which can be extended as necessary. Both the Telecommunications Law and Regulation 52/2000 state that interception must happen within 24 hours of a formal interception request being received.

The Telecommunications Law and the IET Law contain general principles for interception. Other laws outline a more detailed interception procedure for a particular crime – for example, the Terrorism Law and Law No.35 of 2009 on Narcotics. Parliament has just approved an amendment to the Terrorism Law and there have been discussions on changing the requirements for lawful interception when it applies to terrorism. So far the amendment to the Terrorism Law is still to be finalised and hasn't yet been published.

There are also other laws permitting interception without being subject to the requirements of the Telecommunications Law and the IET Law. For example, the anti-corruption agency and intelligence services are authorised to conduct their own interception activities under Law No.30 of 2002 on the Corruption Eradication Commission (as amended) and the Intelligence Law.

Data retention

The Telecommunications Law and Regulation 52/2000 state that communication service providers must keep data about the use of telecommunications services for at least three months. There is no guidance on the type of data that they should keep though. In practice, it is billing information, like details on outgoing and incoming calls, duration of calls, geo-location of calls and internet data plans (called 'customer usage data').

Data disclosure

Under the Telecommunications Law and Regulation 52/2000, customers can ask communication service providers for their customer usage data. The attorney general, chief of police or government investigator can also ask communication service providers for this. They must give the data confidentially to the authorised party within 24 hours of them asking for it.

Web blocking

As a general principle, Regulation 19/2014 compels internet service providers to block access to sites containing content like pornography and other illegal content, or material that infringes copyright. If internet service providers don't do this, they can be sanctioned. This can range from a written warning to revoking their licence.

Other laws also authorise the government to stop the public accessing certain content. For example, Law No.44 of 2008 regarding Pornography and Government and Regulation No.5 of 2014 regarding Conditions and Procedure on Creation, Dissemination and Use of Pornography Products (the '**Anti-Pornography Laws**') give the government the power to block pornography sites. This includes the ability to cut network connections to stop pornographic materials being produced and distributed, and to restrict access through blocking and filtering.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Indonesia	0	0

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Italy

BT Italia was formed after we acquired Albacom in 1995. We changed its name to BT Italia in 2006. Our head office is in Milan and we employ over 900 staff nationwide.

In Italy, we own and operate a 17,000-kilometre fibre network which connects to our global MPLS network. We also provide various services to small and medium-sized businesses, including fixed and mobile voice services, voicemail and data integration, and internet access.

Lawful interception

There are a number of laws which govern interception and surveillance in Italy. The Code of Criminal Procedure allows a public prosecutor to ask a judge to authorise all forms of interception of communications in criminal cases, provided that it meets certain statutory conditions. In particular, interception is only permitted if there's strong evidence that serious crimes are taking place – for example crimes punishable by at least five years in prison, drug or weapon trafficking, or child sexual abuse. Interception of communications can also only be permitted if it's absolutely necessary for the purposes of the investigation.

The authorisation issued by a judge is valid for 15 days, or 40 days in cases about the prosecution of organised crime. This can be extended for another 15 days at a time, or 20 days in cases of organised crime. If it's urgent and a delay could seriously prejudice an investigation, the public prosecutor can order interception without judicial authorisation, as long as the order is immediately (at least within 24 hours) communicated to a judge. The judge has to decide whether to confirm or revoke the order within 48 hours. If they don't confirm this within 48 hours, the interception is stopped and any data collected can't be used.

Under the Implementation Rules of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Italian Home Office or senior officers of the main Italian police forces can ask the public prosecutor to authorise an interception to stop terrorism or organised crime. The prime minister or the directors of the secret services empowered by the prime minister can also make the same request, permitted by Law Decree no.144.

As a general rule, interception must be carried out using equipment installed at the public prosecutor's office dealing with the investigation. But if it's urgent and the equipment doesn't work properly or isn't right, the public prosecutor can issue a reasoned order authorising the interception to be carried out using the equipment of the judicial police. When intercepting electronic communications like emails, the public prosecutor can order that the operation is made through equipment owned by private entities or individuals.

The Italian rules around lawful interception were recently amended by Legislative Decree no.216 of 29 December 2017. This modified some rules of the Italian Code of Criminal Procedure, extending obligations of confidentiality for intercepted communications. In particular, the new rules provide that intercepted communications – and, when relevant, their transcriptions – must be stored at the public prosecutor's office. Only the preliminary investigations judge, the lawyers of the relevant parties and other authorised roles (for example court officers) can access these. As well as this, the Legislative Decree reinforces the protection of private conversations between an accused person and their lawyer. If the lawyer asks, interceptions that aren't relevant to a trial (including those containing sensitive data) must be destroyed.

Data retention

Data retention requirements for preventing and punishing crime were originally contained in the Data Protection Code. This required telephone traffic data to be kept for 24 months and internet traffic data for 12 months (Article 132 of Data Protection Code).

Following the judgment in *Digital Rights Ireland*, which invalidated the underlying EU Data Retention Directive, Italy introduced an anti-terrorism law. This required all telephone and telematics data kept and collected at 21 April 2015 to be retained until 30 June 2017. This law then expired, which meant the general data retention rule under the Data Protection Code applied again. No specific government order is required for these general obligations.

Recently, Law 167/2017 provided a new exemption from the data retention requirements of the Data Protection Code. Under Article 24 of Law 167/2017, telephony and telematics traffic data can be kept for 72 months where necessary to stop certain types of serious crimes, for example terrorism or organised crime.

The law doesn't provide a way to target specific individuals, whose data should be kept on the basis that there is objective evidence showing links to the planning or commission of serious crimes. In practice it is likely that those people will only be able to be identified afterwards, for example, by the public prosecutor when they start an investigation into the serious crime.

Data disclosure

The disclosure of retained data is mainly governed by the Electronic Communications Code and the Data Protection Code. In general, the competent judicial authority can request that communication service providers provide data for the purposes of justice, with a detailed order referring to the criminal proceedings concerned and outlining the specific data required. The obligation of a communications service provider to comply is set out in Article 96 of the Electronic Communications Code.

Under Article 132 of the Data Protection Code, the public prosecutor, a person accused of a crime or their counsel can ask for retained data to be disclosed during the relevant retention periods.

Under Article 55 of the Electronic Communications Code, a judicial authority can also access, for purposes of justice, data held by the Home Office. Each communications service provider will have passed this data to the Home Office about their own subscribers.

Under Article 226 of the Implementation Rules of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the public prosecutor, the Home Office, directors of the national secret services or senior police officers can request data disclosure in terrorism or organised cases.

Communication service providers must disclose any requested information and grant access to their databases to the Italian secret services for national cyber-security reasons. This is under Act No.124 of 23 August 2007 and the Decree of the Prime Minister No.110835 of 17 February 2017.

Web blocking

Either a judicial authority (in criminal or civil proceedings) or a competent independent supervisory administrative authority (for specific crimes) can require a communications service provider to block access to internet sites or services.

The National Centre Against Child Pornography Centre, established by the Home Office, publishes a list of sites containing child abuse material. Internet service providers must block these within six hours of getting the list, which is continuously updated. Internet service providers must also tell the Centre if they become aware of any of this content. They must also block any material if a judicial authority orders them to for a criminal investigation.

There are also regulations which require internet service providers to block access to copyright infringing material if the Italian Communications Authority orders it. This can include removing single instances of copyright infringing material where the internet service provider hosts the material, or blocking access in the case of a serious infringement, including where the material's on a website hosted in Italy.

Law 167/2017 requires the Authority to issue a new regulation which governs cases of online copyright infringement, specifically to include interim injunctions that rights holders can apply for from the Authority. This new regulation will, among other things, provide an appeal mechanism against the Authority's decisions as well as appropriate measures to make sure violations aren't repeated. So far this regulation hasn't been adopted.

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Italy	The Ministry of Justice publishes information about lawful interception requests.	3,650

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Japan

We've been working in Japan since 1985, with offices in Tokyo and Osaka that employ over 50 people. We provide network coverage to 11,200 customer sites in Japan. This includes three IP Connect Global PoPs and voice connectivity from Tokyo, which provides inbound and outbound voice calls.

We also run a 24x7 multilingual network operations centre in Tokyo and provides hosting services, with support on site and a helpdesk. In Japan we cater for both domestic customers and large multinational companies.

Lawful interception

Under the Act on Wiretapping for Criminal Investigation, a district court judge can issue a warrant to competent investigation authorities who are investigating crime to intercept communications. Communication service providers must cooperate fully with investigation authorities.

There isn't a law in Japan which justifies interception for state security.

Data retention

There aren't any general requirements for communication service providers to keep data. But the Code of Criminal Procedure allows competent investigation authorities to order a provider to keep a history of communications relating to criminal investigations for up to 60 days, on a case-by-case basis.

Data disclosure

The Code of Criminal Procedure also allows the competent investigation authorities to carry out searches or seize electromagnetic records. This includes communication histories, like names and dates and times. They can do this to investigate an offence, and a judge must issue a warrant.

Web blocking

There aren't any legal requirements to block access to internet content in Japan.

Some legislation requires internet service providers to make an effort to co-operate with investigating agencies or take action to stop people sending information about child sexual abuse material, or hacking websites. One way this is done is by actively managing passwords. These actions are on a best-efforts basis. But there are also efforts in both the public sector (by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) and the private sector (by the Internet Content Safety Association) to identify and filter inappropriate content like child sexual abuse materials.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Japan	0	0

The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, our head office is in Amsterdam where we employ over 500 people.

We have had a presence in the Netherlands since 1989. We provide network and IT services, professional services and wholesale services as well as a range of domestic VPN, ethernet and internet services, including more than 6,700 km of fibre network nationwide. BT also has its own data centres in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Nieuwegein.

Lawful interception

The Dutch Telecommunications Act requires providers of public telecommunications networks and services to provide a permanent capability for interception.

Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, the public prosecutor can order officers charged with an investigation – for example, the police – to carry out an interception following a written court order. The public prosecutor must then issue a formal request to the communications service provider to co-operate with the interception activities, unless it's not in the interest of the investigation to ask for this cooperation. The communications service provider must comply.

The Act on the Intelligence and Security Services 2017 (the 'WIV') was recently renewed and significantly expanded. It authorises both the General and Defence Intelligence (**AIVD**) and Security Services (**MIVD**) to tap, receive, record and monitor any form of conversation or automated data transfer. They are also allowed to carry out large-scale data interception, either generally or directed at specific people. Communication service providers must help them do this – for example, by decrypting encrypted data.

For these powers to be carried out, the minister of the interior and kingdom relations must grant a request from the head of the AIVD, and the minister of defence must grant a request from the head of the MIVD. Judicial authorisation isn't needed.

Data retention

On 11 March 2015, the District Court in The Hague struck down the existing national data retention laws, ruling that they violated the right to respect for private life and the right to protection of personal data. In October 2016, the secretary of state for justice and security introduced a proposal for a new data retention law into parliament. This would require communication service providers to keep IP data for six months and phone data for 12 months. In March 2018, it was announced that this proposal would be significantly amended and introduce more restrictions on retention. This was to comply with the decision of the CJEU in the *Tele2 Sverige AB* and *Watson* judgments (cases C-203/15 and C-698/15).

Data disclosure

The Code of Criminal Procedure and the WIV allow the public prosecutor, the AIVD, the MIVD and, in some cases, officers in charge of an investigation to ask for access to communications data and subscriber data.

Web blocking

A self-regulatory agreement between the government and internet service providers provides a procedure to handle notice and take-down requests.

An internet service provider could also be liable under civil law if it doesn't act after being told about copyright-infringing material. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, the public prosecutor or the examining judge can make a blocking order for information related to a criminal infringement.

	Lawful Interception requests	Data disclosure requests
Netherlands	The Ministry of Justice publishes information about lawful interception requests.	The Ministry of Justice publishes information about data disclosure requests.

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Republic of Ireland

BT Ireland provides data, voice and internet services to government and major businesses in the Republic of Ireland. We also provide wholesale network services, supplying telecommunications products and services to key communications providers.

Until 2009, BT Ireland also provided voice and internet services to consumers and small businesses. Most of these customers were transferred to Vodafone via a wholesale agreement. But we still provide services to a small number of consumers and small businesses on our dial-up internet service.

Lawful interception

Historically, the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act 1983 (as amended by the Postal Packets and Telecommunications Messages (Regulation) Act 1993) was taken to mean that a communications service provider must intercept any form of communications, including post, phone and email. These had to be issued with a written authorisation by the minister for communications or the minister for justice.

But in 2016 the Irish Department of Justice stated publicly that it doesn't interpret the 1993 Act as giving a lawful basis for intercepting email communications. They laid this out in a policy document called 'Amendments to the legislative basis for the lawful interception of communications', in November 2016.

Under the Criminal Justice (Surveillance) Act 2009, senior law enforcement officers can apply to a district court for a court order to allow interception in specific circumstances in criminal investigations.

A High Court judge is designated to review the use of powers under both the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act 1983, the Postal Packets and Telecommunications Messages (Regulation) Act 1993 and the Criminal Justice (Surveillance) Act 2009.

Data retention

Under the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011, communication service providers must keep specific data about voice services (for example traffic data) for two years and specific data about internet services for one year. Under the Act, an officer of the Garda Síochána can require them to keep certain data if they have grounds to believe someone has committed an arrestable offence (i.e. one that's punishable by five years or more in prison). In these circumstances, the officer must get written confirmation from a senior officer or district judge as soon as is reasonably possible.

The Communications (Retention of Data) Act has been challenged in the Irish High Court. This led to a referral to the CJEU, which found that the Data Retention Directive (Directive 2006/24/EC) wasn't valid (see the case *Digital Rights Ireland v Minister for Communications and Others*, joined cases C-293/12 and C-514/12). As the original Irish High Court case hasn't, to date, been concluded, the Communications (Retention of Data) Act continues to apply in Ireland. Another challenge to the Act recently started in the Irish High Court (*Dwyer v Commissioner of An Garda Síochána & Others* 2015/351 P).

In late 2017, the government published the general scheme of the Communications (Retention of Data) Bill 2017, which they intend to replace the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011. The full text of the draft Bill hasn't been published yet, or initiated in the Oireachtas (the Irish Parliament).

Data disclosure

The Retention Act gives specified senior law enforcement officers (including the revenue commissioners, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission and the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission), military officers and judges power to order communication service providers to disclose data for certain purposes (for example, to safeguard security or prevent a serious offence). Disclosure requests must be made in writing, unless they're urgent, in which case they can be made verbally.

Other law enforcement agencies can get search warrants under a wide range of legislation, like the Criminal Justice Acts, the Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014, the Companies Act and the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. Search warrants that mean a communications service provider must provide copies of retained data can be issued by a district court judge or a peace commissioner.

Web blocking

A copyright holder can apply to the Irish High Court to grant an injunction requiring internet service providers to block specific IP addresses which are infringing copyright. This is allowed under the Copyright & Related Rights Act 2000 (as amended by the European Union (Copyright and Related Rights) Regulations 2012).

In 2016, the Irish Court of Appeal affirmed the power of the High Court to order non-infringing internet service providers to put a graduated response system in place for customers who infringe copyright under the Copyright & Related Rights Act 2000 (see the case *Sony Music Entertainment (Ireland) Ltd & Others v UPC Communications Ireland Ltd* [2016] IECA 231). We aren't aware of any further orders being granted by the High Court. But it is possible they have been granted but not publicised.

BT Ireland is a member of the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland (ISPAI). Their code of practice requires members to comply with notices from www.hotline.ie that ask for potentially illegal material to be removed from websites or newsgroups hosted by members, as long as it is technically practical to do that.

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests
Republic of Ireland	Can't disclose	Can't disclose

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Singapore

BT Singapore provides various BT products including voice, data and internet services. It is one of BT's Asia-Pacific hubs, employing over 200 people.

Lawful interception

Certain legislation grants specific rights for local public agencies to intercept communications.

The Telecommunications Act (Cap. 323) gives the minister for communications and information broad powers. These include requiring telecommunications licensees to intercept communications in certain circumstances – for example, public emergencies, or in the interests of public security or national defence. Under the Kidnapping Act (Cap. 151), the public prosecutor can authorise a police officer to intercept any communications that might contain information about a kidnapping.

Warrants or court orders aren't needed to authorise interception under either the Telecommunications Act or the Kidnapping Act. State agencies or government ministries and departments aren't prohibited from monitoring people's private communications.

Telecommunication operator licences also contain broad obligations for licensees to follow the instructions of the licensor, the Info-communications Media Development Authority of Singapore (**MIDA**), in relation to emergency activities. The MIDA is also granted a broad right under these licences to issue any directions to licensees.

Data retention

There isn't a law in Singapore that specifically requires telecommunications licensees to keep data about their subscribers or customers. But telecommunication operator licences contractually require them to keep a register of subscribers for between six and 12 months, depending on the services they offer. This might include names, addresses, phone numbers and 'call detail records' made and received through the communications service provider's network.

Telecommunication licensees also need to keep data to comply with the Telecoms Competition Code. This is to make sure there is minimal disruption to people when they terminate a service. This is relevant when someone wants to change to another operator.

Data disclosure

The Telecommunications Act permits the minister to request disclosure of retained data.

Under the Criminal Procedure Code, a police officer who is a sergeant or above can issue a written order that requires the production of anything necessary or desirable for an investigation, inquiry, trial or proceeding.

There are various other laws in Singapore that give law enforcement agencies, regulators and specific personnel in government departments and agencies broad powers of investigation to request disclosure of or access to data. These include the Computer Misuse and Cybersecurity Act (Cap. 50A), the Misuse of Drugs Act (Cap. 185), the Electronic Transactions Act (Cap. 88), the Official Secrets Act (Cap. 213) and the Personal Data Protection Act 2012.

Web blocking

The MIDA has the power to issue a blocking order under rule 16 of the Schedule to the Broadcasting (Class Licence) Notification. The MIDA can use this power if a website:

- goes against the Internet Code of Practice
- is contrary to the public interest, public order or national harmony
- is offensive and against good taste or decency.

The Copyright Act (Cap. 63) allows rights holders to issue a take-down notice to an internet service provider to block access or remove copyright-infringing material from its network.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Singapore	0	0

South Africa

In South Africa we offer voice and data services and internet access through our own network infrastructure. We employ over 200 staff across our three regional offices and PoPs in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, and customer support service centres in Durban and Cape Town.

We have invested in our own network connection between Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. This makes us one of the first global operators in control of its own network infrastructure in South Africa.

Lawful interception

The interception of communications for law enforcement purposes is mainly governed by the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communications Related Information Act 2002. The Criminal Procedure Act 1977 also gives law enforcement authorities powers to gather evidence from any person who is likely to give material or relevant information about an alleged criminal offence at a court hearing of a criminal trial. But any ongoing information gathering processes must be authorised directly under the Communications and Provision of Communications Related Information Act.

Both these Acts require law enforcement agencies to apply for judicial authorisation for interception of communications content and metadata. The Communications and Provision of Communications Related Information Act 2002 defines this as 'communication-related information'.

Authorisation can be granted by a designated judge under the 2002 Act when:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that a serious criminal offence has been, is being or probably will be committed
- the gathering of information concerning an actual or potential threat to public health or safety or national security is necessary
- the gathering of information concerning an actual threat to compelling national economic interests is necessary
- the gathering of information concerning property which is or could probably be an instrument of a serious offence or the proceeds of unlawful activities is necessary.

The Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communications Related Information Act 2002 also allows authorisation for interception to be granted where South Africa provides or asks for foreign help in connection with interception of communications about organised crime or terrorism.

There are also emergency provisions in the Act that allow law enforcement agencies to track the location of someone's mobile phone without getting pre-authorisation from a judge. This is allowed when there are reasonable grounds to believe that someone's life is in danger or they might be seriously injured. Authorisation must later be got from the designated judge.

Warrants are called interception directions, and can apply to both internet service providers and communication service providers, who must comply with them.

Data retention

The Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communications Related Information Act 2002 makes a distinction between communications content and metadata.

Internet service providers must immediately store real-time communications content which is the subject of an interception direction for at least 90 days. All telecommunications companies and internet service providers must keep all users' metadata for at least three years under the Act. The protections against interception of metadata are lower than those for communication content. Metadata that is older than 90 days is classified as 'archived information' under the Act. Law enforcement agencies can seek an interception direction for this from any High Court judge or magistrate.

Data disclosure

Law enforcement authorities can ask for data to be disclosed under the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communications Related Information Act 2002 and the Criminal Procedure Act 1977. They can also gather evidence for the preparation of criminal prosecutions under section 205 of the 1977 Act, as long as their written request is endorsed by a judge of a High Court, a regional court magistrate or a magistrate. They will issue an order for disclosure if a given set of grounds are met.

Web blocking

Under the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act 2002, people can ask internet service providers to take down illegal content like child sexual abuse material, defamatory material and copyright violations. The Act further imposes civil liability on anyone who knowingly misrepresents the facts when they lodge a take-down notice.

South African courts also have the power to order people, including internet service providers, to remove unlawful online publications, or to remove specific information from publications.

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests
South Africa	Illegal	Illegal

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Spain

We have provided services in Spain for 25 years. Our headquarters are in Madrid and we employ around 1,000 people.

Lawful interception

Interception powers are governed by the Criminal Procedure Act, which was approved by Royal Decree of 14 September 1882, as amended by Act 13/2015 of 5 October 2015. A competent court can order communications to be intercepted if the judicial police, the intelligence agencies or the customs agencies ask them to, and it is for a criminal investigation about certain serious offences – for example organised crime or terrorism.

In urgent cases, and where an investigation is being carried out into crimes by armed gangs or terrorists, the ministry of Home Affairs, or the secretary of state for security, can order the interception of communications. The courts must review and confirm or revoke the order within 72 hours.

Requests for interception must be based on objective evidence that they'll help verify facts or circumstances that are relevant to a criminal investigation.

Under the Organic Act 2/2002, the Supreme Court can authorise the secretary of state for directorship of the National Intelligence Centre to adopt measures that might affect the secrecy of communications, including intercepting them. This is as long as these measures are necessary to perform the tasks assigned to the NIC – for example to protect national security and prevent crime.

Under Law 9/2014 of the General Telecommunications and the Royal Decree 424/2005, a communications service provider must intercept communications when asked by a court or the NIC. So communication service providers must maintain a permanent technical interface for this purpose, based on government technical specifications. They must use this to transfer intercepted information to interception reception centres, where authorities can access it.

Data retention

Data retention is governed by Law 25/2007 on retention of data related to electronic communications and public communication networks.

Operators that provide publicly available electronic communications services or operate public communications networks must keep traffic data about voice services, including fixed and mobile, and internet services for 12 months. Communication service providers and internet service providers must keep data for crime-fighting purposes, even if a specific order hasn't been issued. This period can be reduced to six months or extended up to two years by the government, after consulting with the communication service providers, and depending on the data in question.

Law 25/2007 expressly states that content data can't be retained.

Data disclosure

Law 25/2007 allows authorised agents to ask for data for detecting, investigating or prosecuting serious criminal offences. These agencies include members of the state security forces, Customs Surveillance Directorate or agents from the National Intelligence Centre, who must get an order from the competent court. Data disclosure is also regulated by Act 13/2015, which modifies the Criminal Procedure Act.

Web blocking

Under Act 34/2002 on Information Society Services and Electronic Commerce, authorities can block access to a website if it infringes certain principles of public policy and human dignity, including intellectual property rights and the protection of children. In certain cases – for example if the measure to be adopted might affect fundamental rights like freedom of speech or right to information – the competent court must authorise the web blocking.

Any provider of information services, including internet service providers, must co-operate with authorities when it comes to blocking internet sites.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January 2017– 31 December 2018)
Spain	24	77

Sweden

We have been offering services in Sweden since 1989.

We have two offices, one in Stockholm and one in Malmö, and employ 45 people. We provide secure networked IT services, voice services and internet access for corporate customers. We also offer solutions for managed IT services and lease infrastructure capacity from domestic communication service providers.

Lawful interception

Lawful interception is regulated under the Electronic Communications Act, the Act on Signal Surveillance for Defence Intelligence Activities and the Swedish Code of Judicial Procedure.

Under these laws, the public prosecutor and the National Defence Radio Establishment need a court order for interception. In exceptional circumstances, like where waiting for a court order would substantially affect an investigation, the public prosecutor or the Försvarets Radioanstalt (a Swedish Intelligence agency) can approve their own interception request. The relevant court must then review their decision.

Suppliers of public communications networks must allow interception, including installing necessary technical equipment and software so this can be carried out.

Data retention

Data retention is required under the Electronic Communication Act and the Electronic Communications Regulation. Under current legislation, no court order is needed and communications service providers must keep data for six months from when a communication ends. If someone makes a disclosure request before the six-month retention period runs out, the communications service provider must keep data until the disclosure request has been met. After that, they must immediately delete it. They must keep data for voice, message and internet services, including IMSIs, IMEIs, IP addresses, location data, timing, subscriber names and addresses.

In 2016, the CJEU held that legislation requiring communication service providers to store subscriber and traffic data wasn't compatible with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. In March 2017, a Swedish court repealed an order to store data for crime-fighting purposes as the relevant Swedish data retention legislation had been deemed to be incompatible with EU law.

Data disclosure

The Swedish Prosecution Authority, the police or any other relevant Swedish authority can ask for data in connection with a suspected criminal offence.

Depending on the type of data, disclosure to Swedish authorities can also be permitted in the following ways:

- through a secret interception court order made under the Swedish Code of Judicial Procedure
- following a decision by the Swedish Security Service, the Swedish Police or the Swedish Customs Authority under the Act on the Retrieval of Data about Electronic Communications in the Activities of Law Enforcement Authorities
- through a request from the Swedish Tax Authority or the Swedish Enforcement Authority.

Web blocking

The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority doesn't have the power to order internet service providers to block websites. But in civil intellectual property infringement cases, a court can issue an injunction against an internet service provider to block websites. They can fine providers if they don't comply.

As well as this, the Swedish National Police Board sends internet service providers a list of sites containing child sexual abuse material, although they don't have to block these.

	Lawful interception requests (1 January–31 December 2018)	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Sweden	0	0

Annex 2 continued

Information about individual countries

Switzerland

In Switzerland, we provide various networked IT services including data, voice and internet services. We have operated in Switzerland since 1992. Our headquarters are in Zurich-Wallisellen and we have offices in Berne, Basel and Geneva, which employ more than 200 people.

Lawful interception

The revised Postal and Telecommunications Surveillance Act, along with the Federal Act on International Judicial Assistance in Criminal Matters, allow certain law enforcement authorities to carry out surveillance of telecommunications networks. They need communication service providers to provide access to their premises and systems for real time and retroactive surveillance. Other providers and company network and public access point operators must also provide access. Authorities can ask for surveillance:

- in criminal proceedings
- to search for missing people or for people who have to serve a custodial sentence
- to provide international legal assistance
- as required under the Federal Intelligence Service Act (see below).

Law enforcement authorities must get court approval for surveillance requests. The Surveillance Office runs a centralised data processing system. Surveillance data collected from communications service providers goes through this database. The Surveillance Office can then give it to the authority who has asked for it. While communication service providers have only very limited rights to challenge surveillance requests, people who are the target of the surveillance can challenge them.

The Federal Intelligence Service Act allows the Federal Intelligence Service to ask for help from communication service providers for interception activities. It's possible for a private operator to challenge these requests under Federal Intelligence Service Act in the Federal Administrative Court.

In exceptional circumstances, like an emergency or when national interests or security are at risk, the Federal Telecommunications Act allows the Federal Council or the Federal Department on the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications to order communication services to be intercepted, limited or interrupted.

Data retention

Under the Postal and Telecommunications Surveillance Act, communication service providers must keep certain information about users for the length of their contractual relationship, and then for six months after this ends. It also requires communication service providers to keep certain identification, traffic and marginal communications data for six months.

Data disclosure

Communication service providers must keep their users' communications confidential. But if the Surveillance Office asks for them, they must give them the data.

Web blocking

At the moment there are no laws specifically regulating website blocking in Switzerland. But these requirements might arise either to limit our own potential liability for contributing to the distribution of unlawful content, or where courts order certain unlawful content (like copyright infringing material or illegal pornography) be blocked.

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests (1 January–31 December 2018)
Switzerland	Can't disclose	10

UK

We sell fixed-voice, broadband, mobile and TV products and services to individuals and households in the UK. For businesses we offer communications services ranging from phone and broadband through to complex managed networks and IT services and cybersecurity protection. Many public services rely on our technologies in the UK and Ireland. We also help other communications providers to serve their own customers.

We have around 82,200 employees who work across the UK.

For the legal position see Annex 1.

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests
UK	Illegal	Illegal

USA

We've provided telecommunications services in the United States for more than 30 years. Our US headquarters are in Dallas, Texas. We employ more than 2,000 people and have offices in more than 16 cities across the US.

We own and operate our own network infrastructure in North America. This includes nationwide coverage in all major US cities, making ours one of the largest networks of this type in the region. Around half of our top 2,000 customers operate in North America, which is why we have such a large presence here.

Lawful interception

There are separate laws for law enforcement access to communications data and access for national security and intelligence purposes.

Under the Wiretap Act, a federal or authorised state judge can issue a wiretap order that allows law enforcement agencies to intercept oral, wire or electronic communications. The application must meet certain conditions, which include probable cause that the interception will reveal a federal crime.

A court can also issue a pen/trap order, which is authorised by the Pen/Trap Statute, as long as an executive officer provides the required certification. The order can be used to get dialling, routing, addressing or signalling information, but not the contents of a communication.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act allows the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to authorise a federal officer to conduct certain surveillance if there's probable cause that the target is a foreign power or an agent of one (among other requirements). In an emergency, the Attorney General can authorise the order to get foreign intelligence information, but they must also inform a judge and apply for an order in the usual way within seven days.

The Attorney General can also authorise interception without a court order under the Attorney General Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act directive. This allows an interception for up to one year if it only targets communications between foreign powers, and if other conditions around the impact on US citizens are met.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act also allows the Attorney General to order a communications service provider to provide information, facilities or technical assistance for interception. They don't need a court order for this, but the communications service provider can ask for a judicial review.

The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act states that communication service providers and related equipment manufacturers must have a permanent capability on their networks which allows law enforcement officers to carry out electronic surveillance.

Data retention

The Stored Communications Act regulates the government's ability to get the stored content of electronic communications and subscriber data from communication service providers. They can order providers to preserve communications records for 90 days and extend this for a further 90 days.

Under the Federal Communications Commission Regulations, telecommunication carriers must keep any records that are necessary for billing information about telephone toll calls for 18 months.

Civil litigants also have the right to require communications data to be preserved under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Data disclosure

Law enforcement officials and intelligence agency officials can make a communication service provider disclose data they hold through court orders, warrants or subpoenas. These must be authorised under the Stored Communications Act.

The intelligence agencies can ask for data about foreign powers, either by National Security Letters, under the PATRIOT Act, or by a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court order.

The Communications Act also gives consumers the right to require reasonable disclosure of their own data from companies that store it.

Web blocking

Blocking internet content generally isn't authorised under current legislation. The US Supreme Court has invalidated blocking orders made in the lower courts on the basis that they breach the right of free expression in the First Amendment to the American Constitution. This includes indecent material likely to be accessible to under 18s.

There are exceptions to this, including in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Here copyright holders can ask for injunctions against internet service providers which force them to take down infringing content.

	Lawful interception requests	Data disclosure requests
USA	Can't disclose	Can't disclose

Annex 3

Definitions and further information

In this section you'll find more information and definitions of some of the terms we've used throughout this document. We've divided it into two parts:

- 1 Information we have to keep and disclose to governments.
- 2 Cyber-security.

1 Information we have to keep and disclose to governments

Wherever we operate, there may be laws which require us (or other companies we rely on to provide services to our customers) to help local law enforcement agencies.

Retaining data

We can be required to keep information about how our services are used. This can include the date, time and duration of phone calls or internet connections over a certain amount of time. It doesn't include the content of that communication.

The length of time we have to keep data is different in each country. But it is generally around 12 months. Sometimes we have to store data in the country where it came from – this is called 'data localisation'.

Disclosing data

We might have to provide current and historic information about our customers' use of our services. This could include names and addresses of organisations using our services, their telephone numbers and IP addresses, and information about how and when they use our services (like the date, time and length of a phone call and who they called).

We could also be asked to provide other data which we hold for our own business purposes, like billing and contract information.

Intercepting communications on our network

This means real-time interception of certain communications. So agencies can listen to calls or look at internet sessions as they happen. This access is generally authorised on a case-by-case basis by a judge or government minister in the country concerned and is governed by local legal requirements.

Collecting bulk content or data

There are a small number of instances where we are legally obliged to give access to our data or content in bulk to government agencies in a country. This means we don't see what the government agency is viewing and we can't check that what they are accessing complies with local laws. These legal obligations are generally secret, and it is against the law for us or other communications providers to say anything about them.

Providing direct access

There's no consensus on what this means, but broadly it's a situation where law enforcement or intelligence agencies use a direct connection to a telecommunications network to get digital communications content and data. They do this without the involvement or knowledge of the service provider that owns or runs the network.

Direct access is difficult to monitor because we can't know it has happened. But we take the security of our network and data very seriously. So we will immediately challenge and remove any unauthorised connections to our network as soon as we're aware of them.

Blocking or filtering online content

This involves restricting access to content on the internet. We are only involved in blocking when we provide internet access to our customers directly and not if they are using other companies. The content could be child sexual abuse materials or other content that's illegal in that country. We might get a court order telling us to block certain websites (for example if they're hosting content which infringes copyright). Sometimes we are told what content we have to block from the moment we start providing internet access in a country.

We don't block content anywhere without a clear legal basis.

Annex 3 continued

Definitions and further information

2 Cyber-security

There is no common definition of cyber-security. But it could be understood as: ‘the protection of digital information systems against attack, either by states or individual hackers’ ([find out more about this](#)).

The WannaCry ransomware hack in May 2017 showed the human cost of large-scale cyber-crime. These are not just technical issues – this type of crime puts people’s lives at risk. The attack on Britain’s national healthcare system meant cancelled operations, missed appointments and delayed diagnoses.

Personal financial losses from cyber-fraud can also be very upsetting, particularly for the elderly or vulnerable. This has led to calls for a more inclusive definition of cyber-security – one which recognises the importance of people at its core. In 2014 a working group of the Freedom Online Coalition (a partnership of 30 governments working to advance online freedom) proposed this definition:

‘Cyber-security is the preservation – through policy, technology, and education – of the availability, confidentiality and integrity of information and its underlying infrastructure so as to enhance the security of persons both online and offline’

[\(find out more\)](#).

Cyber-crime

Cyber-crime is any crime committed using technological means, usually against businesses or people.

2.1 Cyber-theft

Cyber-theft is attacking digital systems for financial gain. A [report](#) in 2017 found that in the UK half of all reported fraud is now committed through cyber-crime. And half of all British people have been targeted (according to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau).

Phishing scams are a popular method of stealing personal details from victims to get their money. Criminals are becoming more and more skilled at creating what appear to be genuine emails for people to click on, so it is easy to be duped. In fact, between January and December 2018 we closed 6,610 phishing websites.

2.2 Cyber-vandalism

Cyber-vandalism is where individuals or groups attack websites or networks to cause disruption. Sometimes these are politically motivated. The most popular method is Distributed Denial of Service attacks. This is where several computers or computer networks take down websites by overwhelming them with traffic. Over the past few years, we have seen these attacks grow in frequency and size. We’re now seeing attacks of up to 1.7 terabytes per second – almost treble the size of only two years ago. The financial and reputational impact of these on retailers, banks, airlines and utilities can be devastating.

2.3 Cyber-extortion

Cyber-extortion is where attackers use people’s reliance on technology and data to hold them to ransom.

The public are more aware of ransomware since the WannaCry and Petya attacks spread across the world. The WannaCry attack hit over 200,000 systems across organisations in 150 countries. With ransomware available to buy on the dark web for as little as \$50, it is easy to get started with this type of crime. So more high-profile attacks are likely.

BT Group plc

Registered office:

81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ

Registered in England and Wales No. 4190816

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www.btplc.com