

Dear Mr Brandis

Please do not allow access to telecommunications data in civil proceedings.

The data retention scheme was for the purpose of aiding law enforcement agencies on matters of serious crime, such as terrorism, child pornography, and human trafficking. Originally, organisations like the RSPCA and Australia Post had access to telecoms data. In order to pass the amendment for data retention, they removed access from all but two dozen law enforcement organisations. Why expand this to now include every one?

The Attorney General's web site used to say the data retention scheme would never be used in copyright cases. You confirmed this on the 3rd November, 2014. The Australian Federal Police Commissioner was extremely firm on the matter that it was only for national security and law enforcement purposes only, not for copyright issues.

It now turns out the Attorney General's web site no longer contains any reference to it not being used in copyright. There's every chance this is being used to allow movie companies to spy on our internet usage.

It's interesting to note that the introduction of Netflix, Stan, etc, has reduced "piracy" in Australia. The solution to copyright infringement is access to media, not prosecution.

If everyone can access this data, just by taking someone to court, how do we know that data will be looked after? When the police access data, it is evidence, and there's a strict process for protecting that evidence. If some average citizen gets your data, you have no protection.

Yours sincerely
Deborah Hoad