

Hello,

I am writing to urge you not to allow civil proceedings to use telecommunications data collected under the retention obligations under Part 5-1A of the Telecommunications(Interception and Access) Act 1979 (TIA Act) or under any similar legislation. When that act was passed, the invasion of privacy it enables was justified as necessary in extreme circumstances, particularly investigation of pending terrorist attacks. There is clearly no similar justification in civil cases. It does not matter if it prohibiting such access will "adversely impact the effective operation of the civil justice system, or the rights or interests of parties to civil proceedings" as such operation is a lesser concern than the rights of citizens to be safe from unreasonable search and seizure. The more the data is available, the more it will get spread around, damaging people's privacy and security. Do not expand the use of the data collected under the data retention scheme.

Regards,  
Jack Fenner