

Dear Attorney-General George Brandis,

I remind you of the statement you made on the ABC's Q&A program on 3rd November 2014: "The mandatory metadata retention regime applies only to the most serious crime, to terrorism, to international and transnational organised crime, to paedophilia, where the use of metadata has been particularly useful as an investigative tool, only to as a tool, only to crime and only to the highest levels of crime. Breach of copyright is a civil wrong. Civil wrongs have nothing to do with this scheme."

I am therefore very concerned that consideration is being given to expanding access to telecommunications data retained under the terms of the mandatory data retention scheme, to civil cases.

Rather than expanding access to this scheme, I believe you should be working to ensure there are additional privacy safeguards introduced in to the mandatory data retention scheme. Specifically, I call on you to:

1. Extend the warrant requirement for access to retained data to cover the entire population (at present, warrants are only required for access to journalists' data);
2. Ensure there is no expansion of access to retained data for civil cases;
3. Reduce the retention period for data to no more than 6 months; and,
4. Ensure there is no increase in the list of agencies able to access retained data.

Thank you for your time,

Rebecca Vo