

To permit such use would be directly contrary to the principles behind the Privacy Act whereby data provided for one purpose was used, without permission, for another. This principal should be kept sacrosanct.

The current access to metadata is well beyond what was envisaged when the laws requiring its retention it were passed and directly contrary to the debate in support of that legislation in parliament.

There seems to be no means of verifying the validity of current justifications for accessing metadata. To widen its availability beyond the use of government agencies as contemplated here, has the potential to eliminate private conversations and the private use of the internet.

To justify retention of metadata on grounds of anti- terrorist (and other government justifications) which by their very nature will never be subject to legal standards of justification and verification is unlikely to be socially valid in a truly representative democracy To make this data available for civil litigation - which begs the question at which point in litigation proceedings would access be granted and subject to what foreseen, if any, limitations - will be tantamount to a deprivation of civil liberties on a massive scale.

After civil litigation, how much further would the limits of access be extended?

Has the effectiveness of the current metadata processes and procedures been assessed for effectiveness? That is, can the requirements be circumvented e.g. 'the dark net'; use of VPN's etc as it seems that no digital controls can withstand the continued progress of those that wish to get around them, but that they make the lives of the law-abiding majority more and more difficult. At what point do the interests of the 'innocent' majority take precedence over facilitating (i.e. making things easier) the administration of the State? This is the road to totalitarianism and the police state.

Let the citizens be free from over-burdensome government surveillance.

Regards
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