

Dear Assistant Secretary

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

My name is Thomas Sprinkmeier and I'm a software engineer with well over 20 years experience. Having also worked as a systems administrator I have a fair understanding of computers, networks and "metadata".

I object to the use of data compulsorily collected for fighting serious crimes in minor and civil cases on several grounds.

Aside from concerns about boiling frogs, privacy and security I believe this would be a massively counterproductive step.

When trying to find a few goats hiding in a large herd of sheep, it pays not to encourage the sheep to dress as goats.

Just as the Snowden revelations encouraged the world-wide uptake of cryptography these changes are likely to make the task of finding the real threats harder. Techniques to mask or obfuscate become norms rather than useful indicators of ill intent.

The greatest asset in the fight against "the most serious crime, [to] terrorism, [to] international and transnational organised crime, [to] paedophilia" is surely the trust and cooperation of the general population.

Lying to the people erodes this trust and, again, complicates the task that this bill is actually meant to address.

If "metadata retention" is truly about keeping us safe from the worst of the worst then don't endanger its effectiveness.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make this submission.

with friendly regards,

Thomas Sprinkmeier