

<b>Title:</b> Investigatory Powers Act: Communications Data  <b>IA No:</b> HO0267  <b>Lead department or agency:</b> Home Office <b>Other departments or agencies:</b> FCO, NIO, Cabinet Office, NCA, MPS, GCHQ, MI5, SIS, MOD, wider law enforcement, other public authorities	<b>Impact Assessment (IA)</b>		
	<b>Date:</b> 3 March 2017		
	<b>Stage:</b> Enactment		
	<b>Source of intervention:</b> Domestic		
	<b>Type of measure:</b> Primary legislation		
<b>Contact for enquiries:</b> public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk			

<b>Summary: Intervention and Options</b>	<b>RPC Opinion: Green</b>
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Cost of Preferred (or more likely) Option			
Total Net Present Value	Business Net Present Value	Net cost to business per year (EANCB on 2009 prices)	In scope of One-In, Measure qualifies as One-Out?
-£187.1m	£0m	£0m	No   NA

**What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?**

The ability of law enforcement, armed forces, security and intelligence agencies to obtain access to communications data is vital to public safety and national security. Communications data plays a significant role in major crime investigations and in every major MI5 counter-terrorist operation over the last decade. It can be used as evidence in court and is essential in bringing criminals to justice. The ability of public authorities to access communications data is eroding as the way people communicate, increasingly through the internet, changes. Government intervention is necessary to ensure continued availability of, and access to, this data in order to keep the public safe and to ensure clear safeguards are in place to govern its use.

**What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?**

The objective is that law enforcement, armed forces and intelligence agencies are able lawfully to access communications data, when necessary and proportionate to do so, to keep the public safe in the fight against terrorism and criminality as well as to protect vulnerable people. The Act's provisions will increase the effectiveness of identifying people online including in cases where a vulnerable person is at immediate risk of harm; provide information on how criminals communicate with each other via the internet; assist identifying people who have accessed illegal content, such as child abuse imagery; and ensure clear safeguards are in place around the access to and retention of communications data.

**What policy options have been considered, including any alternatives to regulation? Please justify preferred option (further details in Evidence Base)**

Option 1: No new legislation. Public authorities would be able to access communications data on a targeted basis and the SIA in bulk under existing legislation. The provisions for internet protocol address resolution in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 would still remain. In the continued absence of legislation, it would remain impossible to resolve IP addresses consistently and capability gaps in respect of this would remain. This means that the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies to protect the public would continue to be undermined.

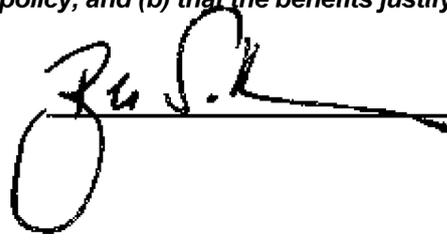
Option 2: The Investigatory Powers Act maintains current powers and legislates to close capability gaps including the introduction of two new criminal offences. The Act will provide significant additional benefits to police, armed forces and law enforcement, and is the preferred option. We have worked closely with a range of bodies across the operational community who have consistently maintained that the absence of updated legislation is having a negative impact on their ability to protect the public.

**Will the policy be reviewed?** It will be reviewed. **If applicable, set review date:** June - Dec 2022

Does implementation go beyond minimum EU requirements?			N/A		
Are any of these organisations in scope? If Micros not exempted set out reason in Evidence Base.	<b>Micro</b> No	<b>&lt; 20</b> Yes	<b>Small</b> Yes	<b>Medium</b> Yes	<b>Large</b> Yes
What is the CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent change in greenhouse gas emissions? (Million tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)			<b>Traded:</b> N/A		<b>Non-traded:</b> N/A

*I have read the Impact Assessment and I am satisfied that (a) it represents a fair and reasonable view of the expected costs, benefits and impact of the policy, and (b) that the benefits justify the costs.*

Signed by the responsible Minister:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. S.', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Date: 26-4-17

# Summary: Analysis & Evidence

# Policy Option 1

Description: Do nothing

## FULL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

Price Base Year 2016	PV Base Year 2016	Time Period Years 10	Net Benefit (Present Value (PV)) (£m)		
			Low: 0	High: 0	Best Estimate: 0

COSTS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years	Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Total Cost (Present Value)
Low	0	0	0
High	0	0	0
Best Estimate	0	0	0

### Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

This is the do nothing option. There are no additional monetised costs associated with this option.

### Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

This is the do nothing option. There are no additional non-monetised costs associated with this option

BENEFITS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years	Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Total Benefit (Present Value)
Low	0	0	0
High	0	0	0
Best Estimate	0	0	0

### Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

This is the do nothing option. There are no additional monetised benefits associated with this option

### Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

This is the do nothing option. There are no additional non-monetised benefits associated with this option

Key assumptions/sensitivities/risks	Discount rate (%)	3.5
<p>The data retention regime would not be allowed to lapse. Changing communications technology and the expiry of existing legislation would likely result in the inability to acquire the data required in the fight against terrorism and criminality, with a consequential reduction in the rates of crime detection and criminal prosecution for cyber-enabled crime such as fraud, online child sexual abuse and hacking. Additionally it would result in declining public confidence of the safeguards surrounding the access to the data.</p>		

## BUSINESS ASSESSMENT (Option 1)

Direct impact on business (Equivalent Annual) £m:			In scope of OIOO?	Measure qualifies as
Costs: N/A	Benefits: N/A	Net: N/A	No	NA

# Summary: Analysis & Evidence

# Policy Option 2

Description: Legislate to close capability gaps

## FULL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

Price Base Year 2016	PV Base Year 2016	Time Period Years 10	Net Benefit (Present Value (PV)) (£m)		
			Low: N/K	High: N/K	Best Estimate: -187.1

COSTS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years	Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Total Cost (Present Value)
Low	N/K	N/K	N/K
High	N/K	N/K	N/K
Best Estimate	169.1	6.6	187.1

### Description and scale of key monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

No costs associated with the current acquisition regime for communications data, both targeted and in bulk. New cost components include getting the relevant communications data from service provider systems for new provisions, building solutions to store the relevant communications data, running and maintaining the above.

### Other key non-monetised costs by 'main affected groups'

There will be minimal business change costs associated with each of the new capabilities, such as training for operational personnel. There will be minimal costs incurred to the justice system associated with the creation of new offences.

BENEFITS (£m)	Total Transition (Constant Price) Years	Average Annual (excl. Transition) (Constant Price)	Total Benefit (Present Value)
Low	N/K	N/K	N/K
High	N/K	N/K	N/K
Best Estimate	N/K	N/K	N/K

### Description and scale of key monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

N/A

### Other key non-monetised benefits by 'main affected groups'

There will be benefits derived from the additional areas of communications data capability to investigations leading to safeguarding children, disrupting cyber enabled crime, counter-terrorism, and the seizure of criminal assets. The additional safeguards being implemented ensure that clear safeguards are in place to protect the privacy of the public.

Key assumptions/sensitivities/risks

Discount rate (%)

3.5

The data retention regime would not be allowed to lapse. Technical complexity can increase projected costs. There is also a risk that technical solutions will be outpaced by technical change and/or changes in consumer behaviour.

## BUSINESS ASSESSMENT (Option 2)

Direct impact on business (Equivalent Annual) £m:			In scope of OITO?	Measure qualifies as
Costs: N/A	Benefits: N/A	Net: N/A	No	NA

# Evidence Base

## A. Strategic Overview

### A.1 Background

Communications data is the context, not the content, of a communication: who was communicating; when; from where; and with whom. It includes the time and duration of a communication, the telephone number or email address of the originator and recipient, and the location of the device from which the communication was made. Communications data is currently defined in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and is legally distinct from a communication's content. It does not include the 'what' – i.e. the content of any communication – the text of an email or a conversation on a telephone.

Communications data is absolutely fundamental to ensure law enforcement and security and intelligence agencies are able to investigate crime, protect the public and ensure national security. It is used by law enforcement, the armed forces and security and intelligence agencies in the investigation of many types of crime, including terrorism – by law enforcement on a targeted basis, and by the security and intelligence agencies on both a targeted basis and in bulk. It enables them to understand the activities, contacts and whereabouts of a person who is under investigation. For instance, communications data has played a significant role in the investigation of a very large number of the most serious and widely reported crimes, including the Oxford and Rochdale child grooming cases, the murder of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman, the 2007 Glasgow Airport terror attack, and the murder of Rhys Jones. Where an investigation starts with an internet communication, such as in online child sexual exploitation cases or identifying the location of people at risk of imminent harm, communications data will often be the only investigative lead. If this data is not available, these cases will go unsolved.

Access to communications data by law enforcement and the security and intelligence agencies (and other relevant public authorities) is primarily regulated by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). RIPA places strict rules on when, and by whom, data can be obtained and provides authorities with a framework for acquiring communications data which is consistent and compatible with the UK human rights obligations. Communications data can also be acquired in bulk by the security and intelligence agencies under the Telecommunications Act 1984. The processing of personal information, including communications data, and the storage of personal data by industry is also subject to the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

The evolution of the internet, mobile communications and personal computing has changed the way that people communicate and re-shaped the communications industry. This has created a less stable and faster changing communications environment with a much wider range of companies providing services.

These changes in the way people communicate means that the government needed to legislate to enable law enforcement and the security and intelligence agencies to continue to access and exploit the crucial relevant communications data that they need in order to continue to investigate and prosecute people committing some of the worst types of crime. This includes, for example, terrorism, child sexual exploitation and murder. Communications data is equally vital to ensure public authorities' continued ability to locate missing and vulnerable people, to identify suspects or exonerate those at the scene of a crime.

In order to maintain the operational capabilities of law enforcement, it is essential that they can access communications data from communications service providers wherever those providers are based, on a targeted basis and for the security and intelligence agencies both targeted and in bulk.

### A.2 Groups Affected

- Communications Service Providers (CSPs)
- The security and intelligence agencies (GCHQ, MI5, SIS)
- Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)
- Other designated public authorities using communications data

- The Interception of Communications Commissioner
- The Information Commissioner;
- The general public, whose safety and security are affected by the capabilities of the police and other agencies to prevent and detect crime, and whose privacy needs to be protected.

### **A.3 Consultation**

#### **Within Government**

All Government Departments affected by the legislation were consulted as part of the policy development and pre-legislative scrutiny process.

#### **Public Consultation**

Government has conducted consultation with public authorities, CSPs and other industry groups to understand the requirement, costs, benefits and technological challenges of implementing the provisions on communications data within the Investigatory Powers Act. In particular, consultation continues on the potential requirements that could be placed on CSPs under the legislation and the market assumptions underlying the costs of implementing the Act. The consultation undertaken to date has openly examined the cost assumptions which have been reached within this impact assessment. The feedback has been supportive, confirming the suitability of the assumption. The Government has also consulted civil liberties groups to hear their views on the scope of the legislation and the safeguards they consider should apply. Consultation also continues with public authorities to ensure an ongoing and clear case exists to evidence the operational requirement for the capabilities provided for.

In accordance with recommendations made by the Intelligence and Security Committee following their scrutiny of the draft Bill, the security and intelligence agencies' exemption for judicial approval of requests to access communications data in order to identify or confirm a journalist's source was removed from the Bill. The associated costs of additional requests being authorised by a judicial commissioner are factored into the impact assessment regarding the oversight regime, but are considered to be negligible.

The Joint Committee that scrutinised the draft Bill recommended that public authorities be allowed to request internet connection records for a fourth operational purpose. The Bill was redrafted to take account of this but, as this will result in no additional retention by CSPs, associated costs are expected to be negligible.

A number of amendments were made to the communications data provisions as a result of its passage through both Houses of Parliament. Any costs associated with these changes would be negligible and have therefore not been reflected in this assessment.

## **B. Rationale**

Given the sunset provision in DRIPA, legislation was necessary to ensure that the government continues to be able to require communication service providers to retain communications data where necessary and proportionate to do so.

The UK continues to face significant threats from serious and organised crime and terrorism. These threats span "old" crimes using new technology to new threats such as cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes. These threats are accentuated by the rapid and persistent expansion in the development and adoption of new communications technologies, which continue to transform government, business and the ways in which we interact with each other. They afford a level of privacy that protects citizens but makes it easier for criminals to conceal their activities

As technology continues to evolve and the way people communicate changes, so the capability of law enforcement and others to obtain access to communications data under the existing legislative framework continues to erode. Legislation is needed to address those challenges whilst continuing to have regard to the privacy of citizens.

Three independent reviews have been undertaken relating to the use and oversight of investigatory powers, including communications data: that by the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament, published in March 2015; that of David Anderson QC, the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, published in June 2015; and that by panel convened by the Royal United Services Institute, published in July 2015. All three reviews recommended that new legislation be brought forward to regulate the retention and acquisition of communications data.

David Anderson said, in respect of access to communications data:

*'20. In relation to interception and the acquisition of communications data, the following types of compulsory warrant and authorisation should be available:*

*(b) For the acquisition of communications data in bulk, a bulk communications data warrant*

*(c) For the acquisition of communications data otherwise than in bulk, an authorisation'* (Page 289, David Anderson 'A Question of Trust')

He said in respect of bulk communications data:

*'To give an example of a circumstance in which [bulk communications data] might apply, bulk communications data is essential in identifying and illuminating particular types of activity on a network for the purposes of cyber-defence, where GCHQ is seeking to identify malicious activity on particular networks. This activity neither targets nor meaningfully intrudes into the communications of individuals. But more generally, such a warrant is self-evidently less intrusive than the current s8(4) warrant'. [Pg. 276, David Anderson, 'A Question of Trust']*

A draft Bill was published for pre-legislative scrutiny on 4 November 2015. That Bill was scrutinised by three Committees of Parliament: the Science and Technology (Commons) Committee who considered the technical aspects of the Bill, the Intelligence and Security Committee, who considered the Bill as it provides for the activities of the security and intelligence agencies, and the Joint Committee convened to scrutinise the Bill.

The Joint Committee convened to scrutinise the Bill said:

*'Whether ICRs are included or not, we believe that, in light of the ongoing need for communications data and the imminent expiry of DRIPA, a continued policy of some form of data retention is appropriate and that these provisions should accordingly form part of the Bill'*

*'Any fixed data retention period will always risk being arbitrary. We believe on balance that law enforcement have made the case for a 12 month retention period and support its inclusion in the Bill'*

*'As the communications data will be held for purposes that are not related to the CSP's own business purposes, we agree that the Government should provide CSPs with whatever technical and financial support is necessary to safeguard the security of the retained data. While we do not agree that 100% cost recovery should be on the face of the Bill we do recommend that CSPs should be able to appeal to the Technical Advisory Board on the issue of reasonable costs'*

## **C. Objectives**

### *Access to communications data*

The objective of new legislation is that public authorities, law enforcement agencies, armed forces and security and intelligence agencies are able lawfully to access crucial communications data they need in the fight against terrorism and criminality, as well as to protect vulnerable people, when necessary and proportionate to do so and subject to strict safeguards.

Legislation consolidates the statutory bases for the acquisition of targeted communications data by public authorities, and the statutory bases for the acquisition of communications data in bulk by the security and intelligence agencies.

It also provides for increased safeguards on such acquisition including:

- The ability to share Single Point of Contacts (SPoCs) – Requiring infrequent users of communications data to set up collaboration agreements with more frequent and experienced users to enable shared services and to take advantage of expert advice;
- Streamlining access to communications data so that, with the exception of certain specified circumstances, it can only be obtained through the new legislation;
- Requiring communications data requests for the identification of journalistic sources to be approved by a judicial commissioner, who must have regard, in particular, to the public interest in protecting a source of journalistic information;
- Introduction of a new criminal offence which will carry a maximum sentence of 2 years imprisonment for knowingly or recklessly obtaining communications data from a telecommunications operator or postal operator without lawful authority; and
- Allowing for automated systems to process and analyse communications data needed to answer more complex requests where data from different communications services might be required, i.e. the request filter. It will ensure that, after analysis, only the data which identifies the key facts about a communication is passed to a public authority and data irrelevant to the investigation is destroyed.

The Act also provides for the Secretary of State to make regulations and issue a technical capability notice placing obligations on a communications service providers (CSPs) to maintain permanent technical capabilities. The purpose of maintaining a technical capability is to ensure that, when a communications data request is made, companies can give effect to it securely and quickly. In practice, these requirements will only be placed on companies that are required to give effect to authorisations on a recurrent basis.

#### *Retention of communications data*

The objective of new legislation is to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement in investigating crime taking place on or enabled by internet communications, through the retention of additional categories of communications data. This data will assist in identifying the sender of an internet communication, often in cases where a vulnerable person has been assessed as being at immediate risk of harm, provide information on how criminals are communicating with each other via the internet, and assist in identifying people who have accessed illegal content, such as child abuse imagery or material encouraging or glorifying terrorism.

Legislation also provides for increased safeguards on data retention, including:

- Creating an avenue of appeal for communications service providers to the Secretary of State who must consult the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) on data retention notices;
- Extending the role of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal to cover the retention of communications data as well as the acquisition of communications data; and
- Introduction of a disclosure provision that will ensure that a communication service provider does not notify the subject of an investigation that a request has been made for their data unless expressly permitted to do so.

#### *Bulk communications data*

The security and intelligence agencies (MI5, SIS and GCHQ) currently acquire communications data in bulk, under section 94 of the Telecommunications Act 1984. The new legislation ensures that the security and intelligence agencies can continue to acquire and examine bulk communications data when it is necessary and proportionate for them to do so. Bulk acquisition warrants will continue to be used to identify new and emerging threats and quickly establish links between priority investigations. The ability to acquire communications data in bulk remains a crucial factor in being able to both track known threats and targets, and discover those that were hitherto unknown.

Given the intrusive nature of acquiring data in bulk, the power will only be available only to protect national security (including economic wellbeing where it relates to national security) and to prevent serious crime. The Investigatory Powers Act provides clearer safeguards in relation to bulk

acquisition of communications data. A decision to issue a warrant will continue to be made by the Secretary of State with the additional approval of a Judicial Commissioner. The process for access, retention, storage, destruction, disclosure and auditing of bulk communications data will be set out in detail in a new Code of Practice.

The Act also responds to specific communications data-related recommendations made by David Anderson, RUSI and the ISC and the Parliamentary Committees that scrutinised the draft Bill.

## D. Options

Option 1 was to make no changes (do nothing).

This would mean that law enforcement would have access to existing capabilities and that nothing would be done to close the growing capability gap in respect of internet-based communications. We have assumed that HMG would not permit the data retention legislation to lapse, as this would have too significant an impact on law enforcement ability to investigate crimes. Public authorities would continue to exercise powers of acquisition of targeted communications data, and the security and intelligence agencies to do so in respect of bulk communications data under existing legislative frameworks.

Option 2: The Investigatory Powers Act makes the framework clear and transparent and to close capability gaps for internet based communications.

This option retains the ability of public authorities to acquire communications data, including in bulk for the security and intelligence agencies. It also re-legislates for the data retention regime, subject to greater safeguards.

This option includes a number of new provisions:

- **Internet Connection Records:** This is a new form of data retention, that will identify the internet communications services that have been used by an individual. This will provide significant additional benefits to police and law enforcement. We have worked closely with a range of bodies across the operational community who have consistently maintained that the absence of internet connection records is having a negative impact on their ability to protect the public. Local authorities are prohibited from acquiring internet connection records.
- **Request Filter:** This is a new safeguard which will be used to ensure that, after analysis, only the communications data which identifies the key facts about a communication is passed to a public authority and data irrelevant to the investigation is destroyed.
- **Introduction of a new offence of knowingly or recklessly obtaining communications data:** This will prohibit the misuse of capabilities by public authorities and will provide additional reassurance to the public.
- **Disclosure provision:** This will ensure that a communication service provider does not notify the subject of an investigation that a request has been made for their data without reasonable excuse – for example where expressly permitted to do so. This is backed by a criminal offence with a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment on conviction on indictment for a communication service provider to inform the person to whom a communications data request relates that such a request has been made without express permission.

### Internet Connection Records

Internet connection records are communications data identifying communications services that have been used by an individual. They can help determine which uniquely identifiable device has been interacting with a specific internet service, i.e. a server holding illegal images, or which internet servers/services a device has been communicating with.

If law enforcement can identify a subject of interest (for instance a suspect in an investigation), the internet connection records may be acquired from communications service providers where necessary and proportionate to determine what internet services they were using at a given time. Legislating for the lawful retention of internet connection records by communications service providers:

- Increases the effectiveness of internet address protocol resolution, including in cases where a vulnerable person has been assessed as being at immediate risk of harm;
- Provides information on how criminals are communicating with each other via the internet;
- Assists in identifying people who have accessed illegal content, such as child abuse imagery or material encouraging or glorifying terrorism;
- Establishes the use of wider services of investigative value e.g. to identify travel sites used by a suspected people trafficker.

Local authorities are prohibited from acquiring internet connection records.

#### Request Filter

The Request Filter is a safeguard which will be used to process and analyse communications data needed to answer more complex requests where data from different communications services might be required.

The Request Filter is intended to enable law enforcement agencies to continue acquiring communications data in a way that minimises collateral intrusion. It will automatically analyse communications data needed to answer more complex data requests where data from different communications services providers might be required. It will ensure that, after analysis, only the data which identifies the key facts about a communication is passed to a public authority and data irrelevant to the investigation is destroyed.

Using the Request Filter to automate the analysis means the amount of data passed to public authorities will be minimised, reducing the levels of intrusion and protecting privacy.

#### Disclosure provision

While in many cases it would be detrimental to the investigation if a communication service provider notified the subject of an investigation that a request for their data had been made, there are cases where this would not be the case. The legislation provides for communication service providers to notify the customer in circumstances where the public authority is content for them to do so. It also makes clear that it is an offence for a CSP to notify the subject where no such reasonable excuse exists.

## **E. Appraisal (Costs and Benefits)**

### **GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS & DATA**

- The communications industry, communications technology and communications usage are all changing quickly. This makes estimating costs and benefits uncertain. The calculation of costs is in line with HM Treasury Green Book guidance, and includes discounting at 3.5%.
- These costs represent an initial estimation based on feasibility analysis undertaken by the Home Office in consultation with CSPs and the anticipated implementation approach. We will continue to engage with CSPs on the costs associated with ICRs.
- The costs outlined below are also without allowing for inflation, value added tax and depreciation. Optimism bias (OB) is applied in mitigation against projects and programmes being over optimistic about project costs and duration.
- We made a general assumption that the UK would not permit the data retention regime to lapse.
- It is difficult to monetise the expected benefits of the communications data provisions in the Act. However we have consulted with several public authorities, including police forces, the National Crime Agency and the security and intelligence agencies to understand the impact of the legislation on their investigative ability.

- To model the flow of the new offences through the criminal justice system, the proxy offence of unlawful interception of a communication in the course of its transmission on a postal or telecommunication system (sections 1 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000) was used. This offence is also triable either way with a maximum sentence of 2 years imprisonment on conviction on indictment. This assumption is owned by the Home Office.
- The figures above provide an initial estimated cost per additional defendant proceeded against for each of the above offences. All costs are weighted to account for the proportion of defendants tried in either the magistrates' court or Crown Court. The cost provided is an estimated average cost of a proceeding from the beginning of that proceeding to the end of the case (whether the offender is found guilty or not and accounting for the range of disposals possible).
- As there were very low volumes of prosecutions for the proxy offence, data was analysed over a 10 year period (2005 to 2014). This means that prison costs are very sensitive to changes in the custody rate and the average custodial sentence length given. It was also assumed that 100% of defendants are tried in the Crown Court.
- An assumption has been made that these cases are unlikely to be heard in a closed court, as this will not be a standard requirement across all parts of the proceedings. It is however possible that certain cases will have to be heard in a closed court, which means the standard prosecution and other associated court costs outlined above may not apply and could therefore underestimate costs for cases heard in this manner.
- Costs for each new offence have only been estimated for each additional defendant proceeded against as there is still uncertainty around volumes. Once there are more robust estimates of these then we can finalise the overall impact to the CJS.
- Given the modelling of existing offences, we expect total costs to be minimal. These costs have not been included in the overall communications data impact assessment costs as a result.
- The Home Office maintains a policy of reimbursing 100% of the reasonable costs incurred by business in complying with communications data retention requirements under current legislation and will continue to do so for existing and new capabilities under the IP Act. The net cost of any new provisions to business will therefore be zero.

## **OPTION 2 – Legislate to close capability gaps**

### **COSTS**

Our best estimate of the total discounted cost of these policies above the baseline over the 10 year period is £187.1m (present value). A discount rate of 3.5% has been applied to this cost, in accordance with HMT Green Book guidance.

Included in these costs is the build and maintenance of the IT capability required to acquire and disclose the relevant data relating to ICRs, the build and maintenance of the request filter system providing additional safeguards, and storage costs of the data being retained. These costs have been informed by detailed analysis of anticipated data volumes and storage costs. They also take account of existing data retention capabilities on which new capabilities will build. The table below presents a more detailed picture of the cost of each policy:

<b>Economic Costs (£m)</b>	<b>Transition Cost</b>	<b>Average Annual Costs (excl Transition)</b>	<b>Total Over 10 Years</b>
Internet Connection Records (Constant)	164.4	5.6	220.3
Request Filter (Constant)	4.7	1.0	15.0
<b>Total (Constant)</b>	<b>169.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>235.3</b>
Internet Connection Records (Discounted)	130.6	4.4	174.2
Request Filter (Discounted)	4.4	0.9	12.9
<b>Total (Discounted)</b>	<b>135.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>187.1</b>

We are continually engaging with key stakeholders to further refine these cost estimates.

There will also be upskilling associated with each of these new capabilities. Staff will need to be provided with the relevant knowledge, skills and training to use internet connection records and the

request filter successfully. Staff will need to spend time away from their operational roles to participate in training. However, the expectation is that this training time would be subsumed within staffs' existing continuous professional development (CPD) time, and so does not represent an additional opportunity cost. Each year, staff have a set amount of hours dedicated to CPD, for training relevant to their role, and so training for new capabilities will come under these CPD hours.

The time required for training has been estimated in collaboration with the College of Policing, and will vary according to role, according to how each role is impacted by the changes. Training is assumed to be provided through a mix of online, table-top, scenario-based and briefing-based training, and will be provided according to which method best meets the need of the role. We have also estimated the opportunity cost of this training, if hypothetically it did not form part of staffs' CPD, in order to gauge its rough order of magnitude. It is estimated to be very small relative to build and maintenance costs. The estimation involves using indicative assumptions on trainee volumes according to role, as well as salary and on-cost data by grade.

The only new costs associated with the bulk communications data provisions relate to increased reporting in line with the new safeguards and form part of the oversight impact assessment.

### Estimated Cost of New Offences

Three new offences are provided for under the Act:

- A new criminal offence which carries a maximum sentence of 2 years imprisonment for knowingly or recklessly obtaining communications data from a telecommunications operator or postal operator without lawful authority;
- A provision that ensures that a communication service provider does not without reasonable excuse notify the subject of an investigation that a request has been made for their data backed by a new criminal offence which has a maximum sentence of 2 years imprisonment on conviction on indictment.
- A new criminal offence of deliberately selecting for examination communications data acquired under a bulk acquisition warrant in breach of examination safeguards provided in the Act. This offence carries a maximum sentence of 12 months in England, Wales and Scotland, and 6 months in Northern Ireland.

Initial analysis from the Ministry of Justice suggests that the cost per defendant for each additional prosecution for either of the new offences could be in the region of approximately £10,200 (2014/15 prices, rounded to the nearest £100). This includes impacts to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) (£2,400), Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) (£1,900), the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) (£900) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) (prison and probation costs also allowing for a pre-sentence report: £5,000).

### **BENEFITS**

The benefits of the additional powers have been considered against five operational requirements of law enforcement. Each of these operational requirements is crucial in preventing and detecting crime and protecting the public.

The five law enforcement requirements in relation to communications data are:

- Linking an individual to an account or action;
- Establishing a person's whereabouts;
- Establishing how suspects or victims are communicating;
- Observing online criminality; and
- Using data.

The communications environment is changing to the use of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and internet based messaging services rather than traditional means of telephony communication and communications data is also becoming increasingly fragmented. As a result, the ability of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to use communications data to investigate and prosecute crime, and protect the public, is becoming more difficult and they are seeing their capability reduce. The Act redresses the shortfalls in capability through the retention of additional vital categories of internet communications data.

## Internet Connection Records

The main benefit derived from internet connection records is the ability to establish how suspects or victims are communicating and observing online criminality. Internet connection records record the websites and applications services used by an individual including times of use and potentially duration and data volumes. The internet connection records associated with a number of subjects of interest, or associated with one or more websites could be examined to understand illegal activity. The destination IP address and port recorded in internet connection records could be combined with other data to uniquely identify a user where otherwise IP address resolution would only be able to identify a shared device or IP. This would not mean retaining full web-browsing histories. Local authorities are prohibited from acquiring internet connection records.

### Case Study Exercise

The National Crime Agency (NCA) and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) conducted a two month exercise throughout July and August 2015. This exercise used a sample set of live investigations and over the two months, investigators completed a template in relation to each case, recording details of the impact of not retaining internet connection records.

The work conducted with law enforcement over the two month exercise showed that without the retention of internet connection records:

- Investigators are missing significant investigative opportunities;
- Are frequently only able to use communications data to establish fragmented, incomplete picture of how suspects are communicating online;
- Crucially it is not possible to establish the use of wider internet services of investigative value that are known to be used by suspected criminals and subjects of interest.

Three case studies have been identified within this impact assessment and are included below:

- **NCA – Human Trafficking (Operation Bootfish)**

This is an investigation into an organised crime group involved in drug smuggling, human trafficking and associated money laundering. Members of the group are known to use multiple devices to communicate, including internet enabled devices. As internet connection records are not currently retained, it has not been possible to establish the extent of online communications services used by the group through communications data requests. In addition, it is believed that one of the suspects books travel for the group online but there are no details of how. The retention of internet connection records could assist in identifying what online services are being used to book these journeys. Investigators have no intelligence to show how the groups are using the internet and, as a result, they cannot confirm whether the group have further associates that might be of interest to the investigation.

Internet connection records would provide operational benefit to the investigation by demonstrating how the suspects are communicating online, which may lead to the identification of additional suspects.

- **MPS – Fraud:**

This is an operation into a serious malware based fraud with potential financial losses standing at US\$137,000,000. A predominant member of the organised crime group responsible has been identified as residing in the UK. It is known that this suspect uses an internet enabled device and it is believed that he uses this device to communicate online with his overseas network. As internet connection records are not currently retained, it has not been possible to establish what online communications services this suspect uses through communications data requests. In the absence of this data being available, an undercover officer had to be deployed to identify communications services that had been used. Investigators have also stated that it would be useful to establish the online banking services being used by the suspect over the internet but, in the absence of the retention of internet connection records, this is not possible.

Internet connection records would provide operational benefit to the investigation by preventing the need for directed surveillance on the suspect and by identifying what banking services had been used online.

- **MPS – Fraud (Operation Kadenza):**

This is an investigation following a referral from a bank, whose customers were being contacted by phone and persuaded to hand over passwords to their online accounts. Information provided by the bank (IP addresses) demonstrated that suspects were using mobile devices to transfer large amounts of money through online apps. However, the mobile network provider was unable to resolve some of these IP addresses to an individual because they were being shared by multiple users. If internet connection records were retained it would be possible to ask the mobile network provider, which of their customers had used the specific IP address to access the relevant banking app at a given point in time.

ICRs would have provided operational benefit to the investigation by acting as a further identifier, beyond provisions in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act, enhancing the chances of identifying the relevant individual.

- **Forensic examination of mobile phones**

The Metropolitan Police Service also conducted an examination of data from 27 seized mobile phones. This showed that the majority of those devices had communications applications installed, which could not be detected currently by communications data requests. This was due to the current legislative restrictions in place within the CTSA 2015 which excludes the retention of certain types of communications data.

## **Request filter**

Communications activity has become increasingly fragmented as people own more devices which connect across multiple communications networks using a wider range of communications applications. The communications data now needed to understand the “who, how, when and where” of a single communication may therefore no longer be held by a single communications provider.

The request filter is intended to enable law enforcement agencies to continue acquiring communications data in a way that minimises collateral intrusion. It will automatically analyse communications data needed to answer more complex data requests where data from different communications services providers might be required. The request filter will ensure that, after processing, only the key communications data is passed to a public authority and data irrelevant to the investigation is destroyed. By using the request filter to automate the analysis, the amount of data passed to public authorities will be minimised, reducing the levels of intrusion and protecting privacy. Without these filtering arrangements, public authorities are likely to need to make more requests to CSPs in future. They would need to piece the communications data together in-house requiring significant amount of resource time, with implications for personal privacy and data protection.

An example of the benefit the Request Filter could provide is shown by the following example:

- During a live terrorist investigation, if a law enforcement agency wanted to identify a suspect who they know was at two separate locations at two specific times, they might currently need to submit separate requests to a number of CSPs to obtain a full list of all those devices at each location, then compare these lists to see which device was in both locations. Under the proposed arrangements the filter would receive the required data from the CSPs and automatically analyse these returns without human intervention. Once the analysis had taken place, only the details of devices which were active in both areas at those times would be sent back to the investigating officer. The filter would then delete all the data, only retaining an audit trail of the relevant request data.

Communications data is used in a wide variety of investigations to protect the public and national security. An overview of the contribution communications data makes to day-to-day operational

activity, and how the measures in the Act will improve the ability of police forces and the agencies to achieve these outcomes is summarised below:

- **Child Sexual Exploitation Disrupted**

Where an investigation starts with an internet communication, such as in online child sexual exploitation cases, communications data is often the only investigative lead available to law enforcement. The Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) estimates that there were some 50,000 individuals in the UK engaged during 2012 in downloading and sharing indecent images of children, often using decentralised or peer-to-peer (or P2P) networks. The Act facilitates the identification of those involved and will therefore be a significant contributor to the conviction of child offenders.

Internet data were used in an investigation into the grooming of a 13-year-old girl on an internet chat service. Examination of the victim's computer by the authorities revealed the email address of a man who had coerced the girl into sending naked photographs of herself and exposing herself during webcam chat. Police officers made enquiries about the e-mail address which revealed the IP address belonged to an address in Wales. Further investigation resulted in the man being charged, preventing potentially more serious sexual offences taking place.

The surge in the use of communications services from overseas providers has meant that police forces increasingly require access to extra-territorial data for cases similar to the one above. This Act provides this capability, ensuring that CSE cases can continue to be investigated as effectively as possible. The retention of ICRs could also have increased the investigative picture, quickly revealing whether the man had been accessing other illegal websites with content such as child abuse imagery.

- **Counter Terrorism**

The provisions in the Act will help reduce the risk of terrorism, by providing law enforcement and the security and intelligence agencies with the ability to identify terror suspects, who may be communicating with each other for attack planning purposes using internet communications that under existing legislation would make them anonymous. The provisions in the Act also enable the identification of people who have accessed particular illegal content relating to terrorism, such as material giving terrorism-related instructions.

It is cited in the Anderson report that the significance of messaging and social media in terrorism prosecutions is immense. The Crown Prosecution Service reviewed a snapshot of recent prosecutions for terrorist offences and concluded that in 26 recent cases, of which 17 have concluded with a conviction, 23 could not have been pursued without communications data and in 11 cases the conviction depended on that data. Giving law enforcement and the security and intelligence agencies the capability to investigate online crime more effectively could help lead to the prevention of an attack on the UK.

A terrorist attack can have a large impact on the UK, both in terms of the immediate impact, such as lives lost, damaged infrastructure and lost output, and longer term costs such as higher public anxiety.

- **Resolving Threat to Life Cases**

Communications data retained under the provisions in the Act may form part of investigations where a person's life might be endangered if urgent action is not taken. These are known as 'threat to life' cases, and could include situations where a vulnerable person may intend to take their own life, missing person's cases or kidnapping. In David Anderson's report 'A Question of Trust', Police Scotland revealed communications data was used in over half of all threat to life incidents in Scotland in the latest three-month period.

The change in the way people communicate has meant that vulnerable people will often post their intentions to self-harm on social media websites, and subjects of interest may use VoIP or other internet based messaging services rather than traditional means of telephony to communicate. Communications data retained under the Act will enable law enforcement and other emergency services to locate these vulnerable people quickly.

- **Cyber-Enabled Crime Prevented or Disrupted**

Communications data is necessary in investigations into cyber-enabled crime, such as fraud, cyber bullying and hacking. The identification of suspects in these crimes can only be done using communications data, and the additional data retained under the Act will enable this identification to be carried out more efficiently.

In a survey of 2000 web users last year by the Get Safe Online organisation, 51% admitted to having been in some way affected by online cyber scams, such as fraud, ID theft, hacking, online abuse or having their computer infected with a virus. The Act will help reduce the economic loss to individuals who are victims of these crimes.

## F. Risks

### OPTION 2 – Legislate to close capability gaps

There is an ongoing risk with all options outlined above that technology will continue to evolve and develop rapidly, outpacing legislation. There is also a risk that, in consolidating existing legislation, criminals and terrorists will be more greatly aware of the capabilities of the security and intelligence agencies, armed forces and law enforcement to detect and prevent terrorism and serious crime, and will take new or additional measures to evade discovery. There is also a risk that this option does not fully realise the objective of policy, to improve public confidence in the legislative regime.

## G. Enforcement

As under DRIPA provisions, only those companies issued with a notice will be required to retain data. This legislation does not intend to introduce any new requirements for communications companies, or place any unnecessary burden on them. The government will work with communications companies to ensure that any requests for assistance can be carried out with the least amount of impact on their business.

Section 13 of RIPA established the Technical Advisory Board (TAB), which provides an important safeguard for communications companies and the Government, and ensures that any disputes that arise from the obligations imposed on communications companies can be resolved satisfactorily. The TAB's role, in the event of such a dispute, is to advise the Home Secretary on the reasonableness of a communications company's obligations. The Act includes clear provisions for CSPs to request a review of the requirements placed on them in a technical capability notice should they consider these to be unreasonable. Under new legislation a person may refer the whole or any part of a technical capability notice back to the Secretary of State for review under section 257 of the Act. Before deciding the review, the Secretary of State must consult and take account of the views of the TAB and the Investigatory Powers Commissioner (IPC). The Board must consider the technical requirements and the financial consequences of the notice on the person who has made the referral. The Commissioner will consider whether the notice is proportionate. After considering reports from the TAB and the IPC, the Secretary of State may vary, withdraw or confirm the effect of the notice. Until this decision is made, there is no requirement for the CSP to comply with the notice.

## H. Summary and Recommendations

The table below outlines the costs and benefits of the proposed changes.

<b>Table H.1 Costs and Benefits</b>		
<b>Option</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
<b>2</b>	£187.1M	£N/A
	Unquantified costs:	Unquantified Benefits:

	None, see Section E. There will be minimal costs incurred to the justice system associated with the creation of new offences	benefits derived from the additional areas of communications data capability to investigations leading to safeguarding children, disrupting cyber enabled crime, counter-terrorism, and the seizure of criminal assets. The additional safeguards being implemented ensure that clear safeguards are in place to protect the privacy of the public
Source: Refer to costs and benefits section		

## I. Implementation

The data retention provisions in the Investigatory Powers Act came into force on 30 December 2016, and relevant provisions of the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act are no longer in force. Implementation of the provisions in the legislation will be subject to detailed consideration with the stakeholders affected, particularly in terms of internet connection records. Capabilities to maintain access to communications data will need to be developed incrementally, with regular assessment of costs and benefits. They will be tested in small scale pilots in advance of larger procurement. Solutions will be flexible so they can be updated to reflect internet behaviour. Risks will be further mitigated by continued close partnership with the communications service providers, facilitated by legislation that will provide a sound legal basis for communications service providers' data retention and storage.

## J. Monitoring and Evaluation

The application of the legislation will be scrutinised on an ongoing basis by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner, an independent member of the judiciary, responsible for oversight of the use of investigatory powers by all public authorities, who will provide yearly reports on the exercise of powers within the Act. The Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament will continue to oversee the activities of the security and intelligence agencies, including their exercise of investigatory powers. And the Investigatory Powers Tribunal will provide a right of redress to any individual who believes they have been unlawfully surveilled.

Post-legislative scrutiny will be conducted five years after the Act received Royal Assent.

## K. Feedback

The Government has considered all of the recommendations of the three Parliamentary Committees and the public submissions made as part of the consultation process in responding with revised legislation.

## Impact Assessment Checklist

The impact assessment checklist provides a comprehensive list of specific impact tests and policy considerations (as of October 2015). Where an element of the checklist is relevant to the policy, the appropriate advice or guidance should be followed. Where an element of the checklist is not applied, consider whether the reasons for this decision should be recorded as part of the Impact Assessment and reference the relevant page number or annex in the checklist below.

The checklist should be used in addition to [HM Treasury's Green Book guidance](#) on appraisal and evaluation in central government.

### Economic Impact Tests

Does your policy option/proposal consider...?	Yes/No (page)
<p><b>Business Impact Target</b> The Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 (<a href="#">s. 21-23</a>) creates a requirement to assess the economic impacts of qualifying regulatory provisions on the activities of business and civil society organisations. [<a href="#">Better Regulation Framework Manual</a>] or [Check with the Home Office Better Regulation Unit]</p>	Yes
<p><b>Review clauses</b> The Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 (<a href="#">s. 28</a>) creates a duty to include a review clause in secondary legislation containing regulations that impact business or civil society organisations. [Check with the Home Office Better Regulation Unit]</p>	Yes.
<p><b>Small and Micro-business Assessment (SaMBA)</b> The SaMBA is a Better Regulation requirement intended to ensure that all new regulatory proposals are designed and implemented so as to mitigate disproportionate burdens. The SaMBA must be applied to all domestic measures that regulate business and civil society organisations, unless they qualify for the fast track. [<a href="#">Better Regulation Framework Manual</a>] or [Check with the Home Office Better Regulation Unit]</p>	N/A
<p><b>Clarity of legislation</b> Introducing new legislation provides an opportunity to improve the clarity of existing legislation. Legislation with multiple amendments should be consolidated, and redundant legislation removed, where it is proportionate to do so.</p>	N/A
<p><b>Primary Authority</b> Any new Government legislation which is to be enforced by local authorities will need to demonstrate consideration for the inclusion of Primary Authority, and give a rationale for any exclusion, in order to obtain Cabinet Committee clearance. [<a href="#">Primary Authority: A Guide for Officials</a>]</p>	N/A
<p><b>New Burdens Doctrine</b> The new burdens doctrine is part of a suite of measures to ensure Council Tax payers do not face excessive increases. It requires all Whitehall departments to justify why new duties, powers, targets and other bureaucratic burdens should be placed on local authorities, as well as how much these policies and initiatives will cost and where the money will come from to pay for them. [<a href="#">New burdens doctrine: guidance for government departments</a>]</p>	N/A
<p><b>Competition</b> The Competition guidance provides an overview of when and how policymakers can consider the competition implications of their proposals, including understanding whether a detailed competition assessment is necessary. [<a href="#">Government In Markets Guidance</a>]</p>	N/A

## Social Impact Tests

<p><b>New Criminal Offence Proposals</b> Proposed new criminal offences will need to be agreed with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) at an early stage. The Justice Impact Test (see below) should be completed for all such proposals and agreement reached with MOJ before writing to Home Affairs Committee (HAC) for clearance. Please allow 3-4 weeks for your proposals to be considered.</p>	Yes
<p><b>Justice Impact Test</b> The justice impact test is a mandatory specific impact test, as part of the impact assessment process that considers the impact of government policy and legislative proposals on the justice system. [<a href="#">Justice Impact Test Guidance</a>]</p>	Yes
<p><b>Statutory Equalities Duties</b> The public sector equality duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations in the course of developing policies and delivering services. [<a href="#">Equality Duty Toolkit</a>]</p>	N/A
<p><b>Privacy Impacts</b> A Privacy Impact Assessment supports an assessment of the privacy risks to individuals in the collection, use and disclosure of information. [<a href="#">Privacy Impact Assessment Guidance</a>] or [Contact the Corporate Security Information Assurance Team Helpline on 020 7035 4969]</p>	Yes
<p><b>Family Test</b> The objective of the test is to introduce a family perspective to the policy making process. It will ensure that policy makers recognise and make explicit the potential impacts on family relationships in the process of developing and agreeing new policy. [<a href="#">Family Test Guidance</a>]</p>	N/A
<p><b>Powers of Entry</b> A Home Office-led gateway has been set up to consider proposals for new powers of entry, to prevent the creation of needless powers, reduce unnecessary intrusion into people's homes and to minimise disruption to businesses. [<a href="#">Powers of Entry Guidance</a>]</p>	N/A
<p><b>Health Impact Assessment of Government Policy</b> The Health Impact Assessment is a means of developing better, evidenced-based policy by careful consideration of the impact on the health of the population. [<a href="#">Health Impact Assessment Guidance</a>]</p>	N/A

## Environmental Impact Tests

<p><b>Environmental Impacts</b> The purpose of the environmental impact guidance is to provide guidance and supporting material to enable departments to understand and quantify, where possible in monetary terms, the wider environmental consequences of their proposals. [<a href="#">Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance</a>]</p>	N/A
<p><b>Sustainable Development Impacts</b> Guidance for policy officials to enable government departments to identify key sustainable development impacts of their policy options. <i>This test includes the Environmental Impact test cited above.</i> [<a href="#">Sustainable Development Impact Test</a>]</p>	N/A
<p><b>Rural Proofing</b> Guidance for policy officials to ensure that the needs of rural people, communities and businesses are properly considered. [<a href="#">Rural Proofing Guidance</a>]</p>	N/A