# Investigating communications

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

* The Home Secretary should be able to issue a warrant to allow police to examine the contents of letters or communications on the grounds of national security, or for preventing or detecting crime, preventing disorder, maintaining public safety, protecting public health, or in the interest of economic well-being of the country.
* The police, intelligence services, HM Revenue and Customs (and other public bodies, including local authorities and a range of regulators) should be able to demand that telephone, internet and postal service providers provide detailed records of the communications of individual users.
* The government should be able to demand that someone hands over encryption keys to protected information. It should be a criminal offence to refuse to supply actual encrypted traffic or refuse to disclose an encryption key.
* The government should be able to demand that an ISP provides secret access to a customer's communication (e.g. email, online messages, forum postings, blog postings).

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2009/jan/14/regulation-investigatory-powers-act>

1. Agree: By giving the Home secretary these powers crime prevention would be far easier for the authorities and it would lead to stronger evidence in cases against convicted criminals leading to more criminals serving jail time.

If abused though, these powers would be a serious breach of the public’s right to privacy as their own lives could be easily ‘spied’ upon by allowing letters and communications to be viewed.

1. Disagree: if these services mentioned were requested for any reason, other than to prevent a crime, then it would be a serious breach of privacy as peoples everyday lives would be viewable for no good reason by these authorities, other than police. There is no reason why other public bodies and a range of regulators should have access to that kind of information
2. Disagree: Encryption keys should only be requested to be handed over in the event of preventing a crime, any other reason is not acceptable as each creator has a right to hold onto keys for their own property, they should also not be charge with refusing got hand these keys over unless it is an obstruction of a criminal investigation.
3. Disagree: this would be a serious breach of privacy as many details about people’s private lives are in these posts and messages. The only acceptable condition in which an ISP should do this would in the process of a criminal investigation in order to prevent a crime.