**Should big technology companies (Facebook. Inc) ever be trusted with our personal data? (FOR)**

**CONTEXT**

In 2020, the Government made 759 requests to Facebook for information covering 1,039 accounts from January to June last year, more than double the number over the same period in 2019 and exceeding the total from all other Asean nations.

**Claim**

Facebook is a reliable company

**Evidence**

Firstly, one evidence to support this claim is the tone of the article’s heading, “Singapore Government doubled Facebook data requests to 759 in first half of 2020.” This tone of voice is more factual as it shows actual numbers to back up its claim, suggesting that the government is relying on Facebook for these requests.

Another evidence that can be used to support this claim is found within the introduction and the conclusion of the article.

**In the introduction**, it states “The Government made 759 requests to Facebook for information covering 1,039 accounts from January to June last year, more than double the number over the same period in 2019.“ This suggests that the government is increasing its reliance on Facebook for information over the years, thus making Facebook a reliable company as the government is trusting it more.

**In the conclusion**, it states “Globally, 173,592 requests were made, with the United States making up the bulk with more than 61,000 requests, followed by India with more than 35,000.” This suggests that not only Singapore’s government is reliant on Facebook, but many governments around the world are relying on Facebook for information.

Both the introduction and conclusion shows that governments around the world are constantly increasing their reliance on Facebook for information about suspicious and malicious accounts so as to help potentially trace them. Thus, this shows that Facebook is a reliable company as governments around the world trust and rely on it.

**How is the source useful in addressing the issue?**

The source tells us on the purpose as to why the Singapore Government requests for information from Facebook. Majority of personal data being shared with the government is requested for the case of malicious and suspicious activities done by criminals. This will help the government trace down criminals and arrest them or prevent harm from potentially happening to anyone. This source thus is useful in showing that Facebook should be trusted with personal data as it works together with governments to catch criminals with it, making it a reliable company.

**CRAAP Analysis:** **Should big technology companies (Facebook,Inc) ever be trusted with our personal data? (FOR)**

**Currency:**

This article was published in The Straits Times website on the 15th of February, 2021. The article is rather timely onto this news as a similar article appeared on The Business Times website on the same day. Therefore, this piece of news is likely to be validated and updated then. So far, this seems to be the most up to date news as the number of requests in the later part of 2020 has yet to be released.

**Relevance:**

This article tells us on the issue that data is being shared to the Singapore Government from Facebook. However, this is not used in any malicious attempt whatsoever. Instead, these requests help the government to track down criminals and prevent potential harm from happening. This article is relevant to my research on whether we should trust big tech companies such as Facebook with our personal data as it tells us that the personal data stored within Facebook is actually used to help governments around the world to catch criminals. The article talks about why the government makes such requests and the legal procedure that follows it. This thus is also relevant to the world today as the article also talks about how other countries as well such as the United States of America and India make up to thousands of requests to Facebook for data.

**Authority:**

The author of the article is Hariz Baharudin, a journalist at The Straits Times. Muck Rack shows that his work ranges from media, technology and Singapore. He previously worked with other notable news outlets such as The New paper. According to his LinkedIn, he joined The Straits Times during May of 2018. As an experienced journalist reporting about news in Singapore, he should be reliable.

**Article reliability**

This article was published on The Straits Times website. Being established on the 15th of July, 1845, The Straits Times is a reputable English-language newspaper that broadcasts news about Singapore daily. Despite this, The Straits Times is often regarded to be pro-government where there will be little political bias to the ruling party. However, since this article has nothing to do with politics, it is credible and trustworthy.

**Accuracy:**

In the article, the author has lifted quotes from the following, Facebook and Mr Bryan Tan, a lawyer from Pinsent Masons specialising in technology law and data protection. Both of them have relevance to the topic as they are connected to it. In addition, the journalist gave statistics of the number of requests the Singapore government made for data to Facebook as well as the reasoning to the data requests. After cross referencing with the Facebook’s transparent government data requests website, I found that the numbers do in fact match with the ones displayed in the article. This thus makes the source credible.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the article is to inform the general public that the Singapore Government uses Facebook’s data to catch criminals. This can be seen from the article as it does not implicitly paint either Facebook or the government in a negative light. Instead, both the information presented, and the tone of the article are in an objective manner. Therefore, I think this article is quite reliable.