

## The Story of some meta

Such metadata could then be used by marketing organisations to build up a historical “personalised advertisement” profile on individuals.

The move by Philips is the latest blow to privacy campaigners who accuse the metadata being collected by British and US governments and companies on all emails and phone calls of being of immense value to organisations and firms.

Last month the Big Brother Watch campaign group warned that electronic intelligence (“e-overt and covert”) was being used to track down people who used words like “politics” or “feminism” in emails or other communications.

An NCCL spokesperson said: “This report is astonishing. It fails to address our concerns about the scale of surveillance, but suggests that the surveillance of communications technologies poses more threats to society than the conduct of war. This is a blatant attempt to leverage the power of the state to push forward a commercial agenda.”

Other companies on the corporate “whitelist” list include Thomson Reuters, Barclays Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland and the City of London Corporation.

Philips is one of three companies named as wanting to sell surveillance technology to the police. Their inclusion on the whitelist means bad things for the metadata they provide, which is very likely to contain highly personal information on the secret flags.

Major General Michael Hunter, Chief of Defence Intelligence, wrote a report on a possible requirement to share personal data and secret data under the draft Investigatory Powers Bill, published by the coalition government in 2013. The bill proposed for the first time that intelligence and secret government data would be routinely shared across all police forces and private sector companies.

Hunter’s report proposed that the sharing of “data flows” was necessary to provide “stronger operational capabilities for national security, law enforcement and defence.” He wrote: “In the current digital environment there is little doubt

that there is a need to adopt a more flexible and agile approach to exchange of intelligence in order to meet the demands of current threats and to adapt to new threats.”

Brussels is in the middle of a debate about the European Union introducing its own version of the metadata contained in this document.