

ODNI Review Group Comments

Tim P.

Mass Surveillance without transparency of process and equality of access to the data is a threat to democracy.

The unbalanced nature of this data access (>1 million people loosely associated with the US govt have access to more data about me than I do) means that I live in fear of what one of them might do with it. Like for example draw erroneous conclusions from the fact that I object to it and see me as a threat, put me on a watch list and impede my lawful business. Or sell it (illegally) to a criminal 3rd party. I have no possible redress or avenue of complaint, I just have to suck it up.

I thought long and hard about sending this email, just by the act of sending it, I'm raising my head above the parapet and I understand that there are unquantified risks in drawing attention to myself in this way - but that's how totalitarian regimes work - through fear. I don't believe the US is that far gone - yet.

I'm a British citizen who travels often to the USA for work and pleasure, I'm embarrassed that our 2 countries have created such a dangerously ungoverned tool, it needs to be fixed so that ordinary citizens can obtain redress when this data is mis-used and the misuser should be punishable in public.

Ideally I'd like to live in a world where such data was not collected in the first place, but I'll settle for transparency and the ability to challenge misuse.