

## **2022 Every click you make, I'll be watching you** passed 8 December 16

Proposer: Aaron Hood (PPL UG YR2)

Secunder: Adam Stokes (Liberal Democrats)

### **Union Notes:**

1. The recently passed Investigatory Powers Bill has been described as "the most extreme surveillance in the history of western democracy."<sup>1</sup>
2. That our communications, Internet use and personal data will be collected, stored and analysed, even if we are not under suspicion of a crime.
3. These surveillance laws disproportionately affect BME and Muslim communities.
4. That the bill received support from both the government and the Labour Party.
5. Jim Killock, the executive director of Open Rights Group, said: "The state has unprecedented powers to monitor and analyse UK citizens' communications regardless of whether we are suspected of any criminal activity."
6. *Don't Spy On Us* is a coalition of influential organisations who defend privacy, free expression and digital rights in the UK and in Europe.

### **Union Believes:**

1. That civil liberties are a hugely important part of life within liberal democracies, especially for students and academics.
2. Academic freedom, freedom of protest, freedom of conscience, and freedom of privacy are grossly endangered by this legislation.
3. Freedom of expression relies on the freedom to explore and express ideas without the threat of arbitrary, unnecessary, and disproportionate interference. The IP Bill will have a chilling effect on our freedom to share and discuss.
4. That this legislation could possibly be abused by government for political purposes, and this enhances the ability of the state to behave in an authoritarian way.
5. That innocent until proven guilty is a fundamental part of a just society.
6. That it is questionable whether this bill is actually effective in protecting public safety.
7. That recent political events, such as Donald Trump's election in the US and the Leave vote in the UK EU referendum, have meant the bill did not get the proper scrutiny it required.
8. That this is not just of grave concern for UK citizens. The impact of the Bill will be felt around the world. Authoritarian leaders with poor human rights records can now point to the UK when justifying their own surveillance regimes.

### **Union Resolves:**

1. To campaign against the government attacks on civil liberties and freedoms.
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2. To mandate the Student Officer Committee to campaign against the ever growing surveillance state in the UK.
3. To support the Open Rights Group campaign 'Don't Spy On Us.'
4. To lobby the MP for Norwich South to oppose greater surveillance legislation and the further deterioration of civil liberties in the UK.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/19/extreme-surveillance-becomes-uk-law-with-barely-a-whimper>