

support

From: WAPI-Open-E_Group@yahoo.com on behalf of Ian Withers - Priority Investigations [ian@pilimited.com]
Sent: 01 May 2011 16:47
To: UK2
Cc: Irish PI Group
Subject: [WAPI] UK: Hacking & Blagging - law is 'very uneven and very unclear' says "IC"

NEWS "without comment"

law is 'very uneven and very unclear'

Clearer line needed on phone-hacking

The information commissioner is right when he calls the legislation 'very uneven and very unclear'

Peter Preston

The Observer, Sunday 1 May 2011

Acting Met commissioner Tim Godwin is investigating alleged phone-hacking. But the law is 'very uneven and very unclear', says information commissioner Christopher Graham.

When Christopher Graham, the ex-BBC man turned information commissioner, tells MPs that anti-phone-hacking legislation is "very uneven and very unclear", who could disagree? Suppose I use a private eye to blag, con or wheedle private mobile and pin numbers out of some dozy phone company. That infringes section 55 of the Data Protection Act of 1998 – and I could be fined up to £5,000. But if I hack into the mobile in question and hear the messages left there, I'm committing a crime under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 – and could face two years in clink.

If I'm blagging to pursue a dodgy MP fiddling his expenses, I have a public interest defence. If I hack that same dishonourable member, no such defence exists. And while we're wandering these very uneven pastures, ask whether listening to her leftover phone messages is better or worse than conning details of some innocent blonde model's bank account. Two years for listening; a few quids' fine, if that, for trawling her current account. Graham wants to get the whole, vexed topic back to basics, and he is right.

See full Article at

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/may/01/peter-preston-phone-hacking-law>>

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UK/EU Regulation & Press

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