

How far should surveillance go?

Lucy, a government spy

I'm one of 300 spies working on internet surveillance. We can access 10 gigabits of data every second.

Our work is incredibly important. Our country faces a massive threat from terrorists and other criminals. The world is a very dangerous place, as we see every day on the news. We should do anything we can to stop the terrorists, even if that means reading emails and listening to phone calls. If you stop us from doing our work, you're putting lives at risk.



Michael, a political protester

I'm an ordinary person who wants to make the world a better place. I've been on lots of protests, even organised a few; protecting the environment, anti-war, that sort of thing.

I've experienced lots of problems with police. They even sent undercover agents into our meetings to find out about the protest we were planning. I'm worried that if this law is passed, they'll start tracking my emails and phone calls too. This law won't stop terrorists and criminals, but will be used to spy on peaceful protesters like me.



Ade, a human rights lawyer

I work for an organisation that campaigns for human rights. This law makes me furious. It goes completely against our human rights.

Yes, I accept that sometimes the government has to spy on terrorists and criminals. But they should only do so when they have very strong reasons to suspect somebody and when they have permission from a judge. They should not be allowed to spy on ordinary people like you and me. We have a right to privacy – just look at the Human Rights Act.



Emma, a police officer

My job is to catch some of the most dangerous criminals in this country; violent people who don't care about anyone else in society.

In the 21st century, these criminals are using technology more and more to help commit crimes. They are using the internet to communicate with each other anonymously and without us being able to see them. We must be allowed to track what they are doing online so that we can put a stop to their activities.



Wahida, an internet user

I use the internet all the time to find out the latest news, to play games, to talk to my friends. There are lots of things that I don't mind sharing with the world; the photos I post on Facebook, for example, which anyone can see. But there are other things that are personal, that I only want to share with my close friends. I don't like the idea of some government spy keeping track of all the websites I visit and who I talk to.



They say this law is about stopping terrorists, but think about it: If a terrorist doesn't want to be caught there's loads of ways they can get round the system. They could just go to an internet café or use a fake identity online. It won't make us safer, so why do it?

Rob, an internet user

Of course I use the internet a lot! Everybody does these days, don't they? And don't get me started on my phone. I'm always taking selfies on my phone and posting them online. I love the way I can communicate with anyone in the world.

Do I care if the government is spying on me? No, of course not! I'm not doing anything wrong, so why should I be bothered if they track which websites I go on? I'm usually just on Youtube looking at videos of great football goals. The spies aren't interested in that.

