

**From:** Ben Longstaff  
**To:** [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** The Assistance and Access Bill 2018  
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Hi,

The proposed bill will not solve the problems being faced by law enforcement.

Instead bad actors will simply become more vigilant and change the method by which they communicate.

The Assistance and Access bill is trivial for bad actors to circumvent and is open to abuse.

For example terrorists can communicate by hiding messages in plain sight with Steganography, bad actors could use common images, and post images with the hidden message in public channels such as Twitter / Instagram etc and still be able to communicate in a manner that can not be easily detected or subverted.

In the case of the sex offender using fb messenger, if you where able to compel the appropriate parties so that the offenders phone uses a different update server to download a dodgy update, the offender can just pay someone who is not on a watch list to buy a new phone and sim to continue doing illegal activities.

If someone really wants to be secure they will simply build their own apps and install them with testflight so they bypass the app store all together.

Trying to subvert encryption is not the answer. There are better approaches to catching bad actors, happy to discuss further.

Kind Regards  
Ben