

**From:** Christopher Thorpe  
**To:** [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to consultation on the Assistance and Access Bill 2018  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 September 2018 11:14:27 PM

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Dear Minister

I write to express my concerns over the draft legislation titled 'The Assistance and Access Bill 2018', and outline these concerns below.

1. The powers described are broad and poorly defined, which may lead to potential abuse or misapplication.
2. Police and intelligence agencies already possess strong powers to compel the release of information, including passwords for encrypted devices and materials.
3. The Bill may not be practicably actionable; transnational companies can withdraw operations or, if large enough, simply refuse to comply with the orders for assistance.
4. The proposed legislation does not accurately or effectively describe limits on what form, length, or scope the assistance may involve. This may place undue or overly onerous requirements on companies to fulfil assistance request which may be impractical, of low intelligence value, or impossible to deliver against.

Thank you

Christopher Thorpe  
