

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

Forcing companies to implement 'back doors' into their encrypted services would be a good idea if it were possible to ensure that these back doors would be used only by the right people and for the right reasons. This is not how the digital world works however, and back doors will be discovered and taken advantage of by nefarious parties, who will now have access to all the same sensitive information the government wants access to.

This bill is also a strong invasion of privacy. Everyone should be able to converse with others without anyone else knowing what they've said. A face-to-face conversation held in private works in this way, so the same should hold for digital media as well. This is not because people are necessarily discussing anything illegal or untoward, but because privacy is critical to being human - regardless of the subject matter.

People often say "if you have nothing to hide you have nothing to fear", however this is a fallacy. As citizens we don't get to decide what is 'something to hide' - the government does. Who knows what future governments will decide is not okay to discuss freely. There is nothing illegal about using the toilet, however we do this behind closed doors because we would prefer it to be private. The same applies to the digital world.

Any potentially dangerous individual will always be able to access or even build their own fully encrypted software. This means that the only vulnerable party as a result of this Assistance and Access Bill is the general public, the very people this bill claims it is trying to protect.

I am strongly against this bill and I think the ramifications on the digital world will be dire, with less security and privacy for ordinary citizens, while criminals continue effectively uninterrupted. I ask that it be reconsidered.

Regards,  
Joshua Nairn