From: Max Benoiton

To: Assistance Bill Consultation
Subject: Assistance and Access Bill 2018
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While I'm sure it sounds like a good idea for the government to be given the powers needed to investigate digital crimes, this bill seems poorly thought out. If the bill does not outright ban encrypted communication (which would require great firewall levels of internet monitoring), then criminals would just use it instead, and the bill would just serve to weaken the security and privacy protections of law abiding citizens. If the bill does call for an outright ban on encryption, it would be practically unenforceable. Much like the metadata retention laws, this also seems to lack the safeguards regarding who is able to decrypt these conversations, allowing for abuse of power, especially if this bill requires the businesses to turn over the key pairs themselves, and not just provide the plain text of the conversations.