



Is it time to rip up RIPA?

JUSTICE and Julian Huppert MP invite you to an open discussion on the future of surveillance and the right to privacy in the UK

Monday 6 February 2012

5:00 to 7:00 (Presentations and discussion: 5:30)

**Wilson Room, Portcullis House
Bridge Street, Westminster
London SW1A 2LW**

JUSTICE, in its recent report, *Freedom from Suspicion: Surveillance Reform for a Digital Age*, conducts a detailed review of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and concludes that it is outdated and ripe for reform. *Freedom from Suspicion* points out that the majority of nearly three million authorisations for surveillance made under RIPA are not subject to judicial authorisation. In their proposals in the Protection of Freedoms Bill, the Government propose a welcome change to subject local authority decisions to judicial authorisation. While the Bill proposes an unenforceable code of practice on public CCTV, it will have no impact on the expansion of private surveillance.

The proposals in the Protection of Freedoms Bill are welcome, but will not address many of the problems which are identified in *Freedom from Suspicion*. From the confusion which led to the phone hacking scandal to the exclusion of intercept evidence; RIPA is outdated and not fit for purpose. The time is right for an open discussion about the future of surveillance in the UK, its regulation and the protection of individual privacy.

Panel participants:

- **Angela Patrick (chair)**, Director of Human Rights Policy, JUSTICE
- **Dr Eric Metcalfe**, Barrister, Monckton Chambers, former Director of Human Rights Policy for JUSTICE and author of *Freedom from Suspicion*
- **Lord Phillips of Sudbury**. Lord Phillips has played an active part in the House of Lords debates on the proposals for reform of RIPA in the Protection of Freedoms Bill and tabled amendments to propose wider reform during Grand Committee.
- **Matthew Ryder QC**, Matrix Chambers. Mr Ryder is a leading practitioner whose recent work has included successful appeals of 20 environmental protestors based on the role of an undercover police officer and non-disclosure by the Crown Prosecution Service. He will focus on the legal problems caused by RIPA's operation in practice.
- **James Welch**, Legal Director, Liberty. Liberty has acted in a number of cases on surveillance in the UK, including acting for parents whose local authority used RIPA powers inappropriately to check on school admissions.

Numbers at this event are limited. To reserve your place, please email events@justice.org.uk