



Internet Telephony Services Providers' Association

ITSPA response to the Home Office Consultation on the initial transposition of the European Directive (2006/24/EC) on the retention of communications data

ITSPA welcomes the Home Office consultation on the initial transposition of the European Directive (2006/24/EC) on the retention of communications data. By responding to this, ITSPA hopes to offer clarity on what Internet telephony providers believe is the best course of action in the retention of communications data from a VoIP perspective.

ITSPA agrees with the differentiation between traditional telephony and Internet services within the transposition and also endorses the delay in the implementation of the Directive for Internet services. ITSPA meets on a regular basis with the Home Office and looks forward to this continuing as the focus shifts to the second phase of the Directive being implemented.

It was felt that certain points made by ITSPA members should be raised at this point.

1. Regulation 4(5) - ITSPA would welcome clarification from the Home Office on what it defines as "Internet Telephony". This technology comes in many different flavours and it is important for ITSPA's members to understand which services will fall under the scope of the new regulations in the initial phase from September 2007. Some of our members already produce call detail records, which could be retained, and some do not. Some of our members hold accurate subscriber information, and some do not. Some may be able to provide location data, others may not ever or may not always be able to do so.
2. Regulation 5(1)(a) - ITSPA members would like clarification on what steps, if any, a provider would have to take to validate a subscriber's address. As described above, where payment is made by credit card, providers cannot necessarily guarantee that the address provided by the subscriber is accurate.
3. Regulation 10 - ITSPA welcomes the provisions regarding reimbursement. We would appreciate further clarification on what costs this will cover and whether there are any conditions attached to such reimbursement. It is not clear whether reimbursement will be available throughout both stages of implementation of the Directive.
4. ITSPA members would also like to discuss with the Home Office common standards in the way that data is requested. Requested data could be returned by the ITSP in their own format. This would make it easier to implement for ITSPs and reduce the management time in collecting the requested information.



Internet Telephony Services Providers' Association

About ITSPA:

The Internet Telephony Services Providers' Association (ITSPA) is the UK VoIP industry's trade body, representing 60 UK businesses involved with the supply of VoIP services to industry and residential customers within the UK. ITSPA pays close attention to the development of VoIP regulatory frameworks on a worldwide basis in order to ensure that the UK internet telephony industry is as competitive as it can be within international markets.

A full list of ITSPA members can be found at <http://www.itspa.org.uk/>