



**Submission No 223**

**Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation**

**Organisation: Department of Immigration and Citizenship**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Immigration and Citizenship**

File ref: IOF2012/44

24 August 2012

The Secretary  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

**Inquiry into potential reforms of national security legislation**

I refer to your letter dated 13 July 2012 to Mr Andrew Metcalfe.

I am writing to advise the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (the Committee) of the possible impact that changes to the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* (the TIA Act) may have on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department).

The department undertakes investigations concerning migration and citizenship related offences and continued access to telecommunications data, including subscriber information as well as call charge and reverse call charge records, is an important factor in ensuring effective investigation outcomes in criminal matters. Access to appropriate telecommunications data is an important factor in managing risks associated with the integrity of Australia's migration and citizenship programs.

Further, the department also works collaboratively with a range of government bodies to ensure a whole of government response to migration and citizenship related crime, along with serious criminal conduct targeting other important areas, such as taxation and social security. A whole of government response in this sphere is paramount and supports the need for agencies to appropriately access information relevant in discharging their legislative obligations.

Should the Committee require further information in relation to this matter, please contact Assistant Secretary Hawari Badri on 02 6198 7556 or [hawari.badri@immi.gov.au](mailto:hawari.badri@immi.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Bowles'.

Martin Bowles, PSM  
Acting Secretary

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