

Lines to take if IAE is raised

- The Government remains committed to using the best evidence available to enhance its ability to bring forward prosecutions. That is why it endorsed the recommendations of the Privy Council Review Report for the introduction of intercept as evidence (IAE), provided the conditions it outlined can be met.
- However, the large number of previous reviews on this subject, seven in the last 14 years (including two during the previous Conservative administration), highlights the difficulties in securing IAE in the UK.
- For the past year the IAE Implementation Team has taken forward a complex and demanding work programme, alongside the intercepting and prosecutorial agencies. This work has been overseen by a cross party of Advisory Group of Privy Counsellors (AGPC), comprising Sir John Chilcot, Sir Alan Beith MP, Lord Archer of Sandwell (from the original review) and Michael Howard MP.
- In February the then Home Secretary issued a Written Ministerial Statement on IAE. This covered the progress report of the AGPC to the Prime Minister which made clear that significant legal difficulties remained to be resolved if IAE is to be introduced. [Copies of the report are available in the House Libraries]
- Recent work has focused on testing the legal and operational viability of using intercept as evidence. This has involved a series of live tests of agency interception practice and a mock trial, in order to test legal viability and practicalities.
- We are now approaching the end of the work programme. The Implementation Team is drawing together findings and conclusions before a final judgement can be made by Ministers of whether IAE can be safely implemented.