

 Regulatory Policy Committee	OPINION	
Impact Assessment (IA)	Communications Data Bill	
Lead Department/Agency	Home Office	
Stage	Final	
Origin	Domestic	
IA number	HO 0084	
Date submitted to RPC	11/01/2013	
RPC Opinion date and reference	30/01/2013	RPC12-HO-1319(2)
OIOO Assessment	GREEN	
<p>Overall comments on the robustness of the OIOO assessment.</p> <p>Although the policy will impose costs on business, these will be fully reimbursed by the Home Office. The IA states that there will therefore be negligible impact on business. This appears to be a reasonable assessment of the policy and consistent with OIOO methodology.</p>		
<p>Overall quality of the analysis and evidence presented in the IA</p> <p><i>Costs and Benefits</i> The IA provides sufficient evidence to support the proposal to maintain communications data capability. The IA could however benefit from a discussion on the impact upon small businesses.</p> <p><i>EU Data Retention Directive.</i> The IA says that under the Directive UK Communication Service Providers are required to retain certain specified types of data for a minimum of six and a maximum of 24 months (page 4). The IA would benefit from an explanation for the justification of maintaining a 12 month period for data retention, instead of applying the minimum required by the Directive.</p>		
Signed	Michael Gibbons, Chairman	
		