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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 March 2017 12:12
To: Enforcement
Subject: Illicit IPTV Streaming Devices – Call for Views
Categories: IPTV call for views

Here's my response to the call for views.

When my views are published, use my short-form name 'Jon.2'. Do not publish my personal details

Thanks and have a nice day!

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Q1: Please provide evidence of the scale of the problem of illicit IPTV streaming devices and the economic harm it is causing to broadcasters and content owners.

IPTV streaming devices are providing affordable information to consumers, and is improving the quality of living of UK citizens. It is not a problem.

It is the responsibility of broadcasters and content 'owners' to find suitable funding and revenue streams, not the government's. The government should act in the interest of the general public and protect the general public from the legal threats of broadcasters and content 'owners'.

Q3: Please provide examples of cases you are aware of where prosecution of ostensibly valid cases was not pursued under the above provisions. Please indicate why these cases were not taken forward.

As these prosecutions damage consumer rights and are biased towards content providers, the law should include clauses that protect consumer rights and the natural rights to obtain information and hence exemption from civil and criminal lawsuits for information-seeking behaviour.

Q4: Are there specific areas where you believe the current legal framework does not provide the necessary tools to investigate and prosecute this issue? If so, please provide as much detail as you can on how you think the current provisions could be amended and how these amendments would address the perceived gap.

The current law aims to protect content providers and undermines consumer rights. A right step would be to gradually decriminalise any form of unofficial information sharing to respect the right to obtain accurate information from primary sources.

Q5: Is there any UK case law which you believe limits the applicability of the statutory offences listed above?

There is insufficient UK laws to protect citizens from criminal and civil prosecutions when they obtain information. Explicit clauses should exist for information-seeking behaviour to be exempted from any form of criminal and civil prosecutions. The general public should be well-informed of their rights in obtaining information so that content providers cannot double-charge what is already given away.

Q8: Please provide examples of where there is an international element to the supply and support of this activity in the UK, and give your views on how this dimension of the problem could be addressed in terms of:

- a. The supply of illegal boxes;
- b. Websites hosting illegal content; and
- c. Other illicit streaming services.

Instead of calling these services illegal/illicit, we should protect the rights to disseminate and obtain information in ways that the general public would like. Content providers should not enjoy the exclusive rights as to how their information is used/disseminated, as this stifles creativity and convenience.

There should not be further laws to restrict boxes, website content and streaming services.

Q10: Are there any other barriers to the successful investigation and prosecution of these issues?

There are insufficient barriers to these issues. Information rights is a fundamental right and citizens should be exempted from criminal and civil lawsuits when they seek information. Information rights clauses should be added the existing laws.

Best regards,
Jon.2