

Timeline relating to Journalistic Sources Inquiry - 2014



April

8th April – ECJ Rules DRD invalid

European Court of Justice rules invalid the Data Retention Directive 2006/24/EC. The [Judgement](#) identifies the lack of any exception for communications that are subject to an obligation of professional secrecy.

July

July – UK Government addresses ECJ judgment

The Government [Note](#) on the European Court of Justice Judgment identified that the government would amend the data acquisition Code of Practice, ensuring that where there may be concerns relating to professions that handle privileged information (e.g. lawyers or journalists), law enforcement should give additional consideration of the level of intrusion.

September

September – Metropolitan Police publish Operation Alice (investigation into the so called Plebgate affair) closing [report](#)

2nd September – The Sun reports on Operation Alice

The Sun [report](#) that *'Police circumvented normal safeguards to see phone records and expose plebgate sources'*

4th September – IOCCO [respond](#) to media disclosures about Operation Alice

11th September – Press Gazette launch ['Save our Sources'](#) petition to Interception Commissioner

17th September – IOCCO [acknowledges](#) the Save our Sources campaign

We publish that we are aware of the Press Gazette 'save our sources' petition and understand the concerns raised about the protection of journalistic sources so as to enable a free press.

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October

5th October – Mail on Sunday article re Operation Solar

Mail on Sunday [reports](#) that Kent Police 'hacked' their phones to identify a source that a judge agreed to protect in the Huhne speeding points case.

5th October – IOCCO launches Inquiry

Interception Commissioner decides to launch an [inquiry](#) into the use of RIPA powers to acquire communications data to identify journalistic sources. HASC is informed.

6th October – IOCCO requires information from police forces

Interception Commissioner [directs](#) Chief Constables under s.58(1) RIPA to provide details of all investigations in past 3 years that have used Part I Chapter 2 RIPA powers to acquire communications data to identify journalistic sources.

13th October onwards – IOCCO receives responses from police forces and begins examination of material

Responses to Interception Commissioner's requirement for information received from police forces on varying dates.

3 IOCCO Inspectors allocated to Inquiry. The Inspectors are in the process of examining in detail the material provided. Where necessary they have requested further information or clarification, or, arranged interviews to examine specific cases in more detail.

16th October – IOCCO liaises with Press to hear concerns directly

IOCCO liaises with the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) at the NUJ / Guardian [event](#) 'Journalism in the age of mass surveillance: Safeguarding journalists and their sources'