

EU

EU is Considering Three-tiered System of Data Protection Fines

A document which was leaked by Statewatch suggests that the EU is considering a three tiered system of data protection fines. The three tiered structure would be introduced under the proposed new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and would give national governments the authority to decide whether public authorities in their country should be fined in the event that they breach the GDPR.

[EU Proposal on Data Protection Fines](#)

UK

The Draft Communications Bill is “Snooping” Its Way Back onto the Political Agenda

The Draft Communications Bill, also known as the “snooper’s charter” has been moved to the forefront of the Conservative’s political agenda following the results of this month’s General Election. The Bill, which was originally announced in 2012, received widespread criticism and was blocked previously by the Liberal Democrats.

The Bill is expected to require internet service providers and mobile operators to log more information on their customers, including the identity of the sender and recipient of the message, time of sending and geographical location. The Bill is also expected to expand existing data retention requirements and grants access to law enforcement agencies in order to assist with the collection of intelligence regarding crime and terrorism.

[Draft Communications Data Bill](#)

The Queen’s Speech at the State Opening of Parliament Promises New Data Legislation

On 27 May 2015, the Queen delivered a speech at the State Opening of Parliament setting out the Government’s agenda for its next term. The Queen promised that “new legislation will modernise the law on communications data” thus confirming that changes to data protection and communications laws are imminent.

[Queen’s Speech 2015](#)

The UK’s Information Commissioner Suggests that a Flood of Major Fines will not Follow EU Data Protection Reforms

The UK’s Information Commissioner, Christopher Graham, suggested that it would be a “mistake” to think that data protection authorities will use the new powers granted under the EU data protection reforms to issue “huge fines left right and centre.”

In Graham’s keynote speech at the European Conference of Data Protection Authorities, Graham suggested that data protection authorities need to be “selective to be effective” and need to focus on bigger threats as opposed to fining every case of non-compliance.

[Christopher Graham Speech](#)

Germany

Germany to Strengthen Data Retention Laws

Germany is one of the first EU countries to draft a new law on data retention following the European Court of Justice’s decision that the EU’s Data Retention Directive violated privacy rights.

The draft bill states that data must be stored in Germany and that data retention of telephone use and computer IP addresses for ten weeks will become mandatory. It also states that the movements of mobile phone users should only be saved for up to four weeks.

This draft bill is a stark contrast to the requirements under the European Data retention Directive which required the storage of data for between six months and twenty four months.

[Draft Bill on Data Retention Laws \(in German\)](#)

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