

SFJCG203

Acquire communications data from communications service providers



Overview

This unit describes the activities of a person who has been accredited to act as the Single Point of Contact (SPoC) between a public authority, as defined in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), and communications service provider (CSP).

The unit has been developed to reflect the performance required of a SPoC as defined in the Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data Code of Practice, published by the Home Office.

There is one element

- 1 Acquire communications data from communications service providers

Target Group

This unit is exclusively for accredited SPoCs who have been issued with a SPoC Identification, working within one of the following public authorities:

- 1 police force
- 2 Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)
- 3 HM Revenue and Customs
- 4 Security Service
- 5 Secret Intelligence Service
- 6 Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)
- 7 Border and Immigration Agency (IND)

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 advise applicants how to develop strategies to acquire communications data
 - P2 assess whether the acquisition of communications data from a communications service provider (CSP) is necessary, proportional and practical
 - P3 advise applicants on the most appropriate methodology for acquisition of data, where the data sought engages a number of CSPs
 - P4 advise applicants and designated persons on the interpretation of relevant legislation, particularly whether an authorisation or a notice is more appropriate
 - P5 provide assurance to CSPs that authorisations and notices are authentic and lawful
 - P6 assess any costs and resource implications to both your organisation and the CSP of data requirements
 - P7 agree with the CSP any contribution to costs incurred in meeting specific data requirements
 - P8 ensure CSPs make timely disclosure of the communications data required
 - P9 assess whether communications data disclosed by a CSP in response to a notice fulfil the requirements of the notice, and take appropriate action if it fails to do so
 - P10 assess whether communications data obtained by means of an authorisation fulfil the requirements of the authorisation, and take appropriate action if it fails to do so
 - P11 advise applicants how to use communications data effectively and securely in support of operations/investigations

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Legal and organisational requirements

- K1 current relevant legislation, policies, procedures, codes of practice and guidelines relating to the acquisition and disclosure of communications data
- K2 the difference between an authorisation and a notice, and the circumstances in which an authorisation or a notice would be more appropriate
- K3 contributions that can be made towards CSPs' costs of meeting data requirements

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You need to know and understand:

- K4 the range of strategies and methodologies for acquiring communications data and how to advise on the strategies and methodologies which are most appropriate to different contexts
- K5 how to assess the necessity, proportionality and practicality of acquiring specific communications data in different contexts
- K6 the range of different CSPs and the communications data they hold
- K7 the importance of assuring CSPs that authorisations and notices are authentic and lawful, and how to do so
- K8 how to assess the costs and resource implications of providing communications data
- K9 the importance of ensuring CSPs make timely disclosure of data requirements and how to assure this
- K10 how to assess whether communications data disclosed by a CSP or obtained by means of a notice fulfil the requirements, and the range of actions you can take if they fail to do so
- K11 how to advise applicants on the effective and secure use of communications data

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