

Security Classification/FOI 2000	Not Protectively Marked
FOI Requests on rationale	acpo.request@foi.pnn.police.uk
Author	[REDACTED]
Force/organisation	Kent Police
NPCC Crime Coordination Committee	NCCC Chair, Chief Constable [REDACTED]
Telephone number	[REDACTED]
Date created	9th June 2021



[REDACTED]
Legal Officer
Privacy International (PI)
[REDACTED]

Re: Use of IMSI catchers by law enforcement

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated the 5th May 2021, regarding the alleged use by law enforcement (LE) of what you describe as international mobile subscriber identity catchers and what is perceived as a lack of transparency surrounding their alleged use.

I respond in my position as the Chair of the National Crime Coordination Committee within the National Police Chiefs' Council. May I start by reassuring you that there is clear legislative governance, together with robust safeguarding legislated within the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA 2016) regarding all LE covert investigatory powers. Additionally, there are world leading standards of supervision / oversight by the independent Investigatory Powers Commission.

I note that there have been several Information Commission Appeals by PI including cases which have been taken to the Information Rights Tribunal concerning the Information Commissioners upholding of the Law Enforcement Professionals position, all of which have been upheld.

In this regard I will not be drawn further on the subject matter other than to reiterate the position that law enforcement will neither confirm nor deny the presence / use of any such equipment.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Kent Police
NPCC Chair of National Crime Committee.