World map of encryption laws and policies

Revision survey background

In 2017, following a period of desk-based research, GPD published a world map of encryption laws and policies. For each country in the world, the map identifies and provides details of any laws and policies which relate to, or impact upon, the availability or utility of encryption in that country. Given the wide range of different aspects of encryption that legislation and policies may relate to, the authors of the map categorised relevant laws and policies under six headings:

> **(i) General right to encryption**: National legislation or policy establishes a general right for individuals to use encryption products and services.

> **(ii) Minimum / maximum standards**: National legislation or policy sets down either minimum or maximum standards for encryption products and services.

> **(iii) Licencing/registration requirements**: National legislation or policy requires providers (or users) of encryption products or services to be licenced or registered in some manner.

> **(iv) Import / export controls**: National legislation or policy sets out limitations or conditions on the lawful importation or exportation of encryption products or services.

> **(v) Powers to intercept / decrypt encrypted communications**: National legislation or policy provides for security or law enforcement agencies to be able to (i) intercept encrypted communications, (ii) decrypt encrypted communications, or (iii) require service providers or individuals to decrypt (or assist in the decryption) of encrypted communications.

> **(vi) Other:** Any other restrictions.

There remain a number of countries where desk-based research revealed no information on any laws and policies, and so we are about to commission further research on these countries. At the same time, we are also considering a broader review of the map, including whether we should present the existing information on encryption laws and policies in new ways and, in the longer-term, whether we could also analyse the laws and policies for their compatibility with international human rights law.

Before commissioning any further research, and reviewing the map and the information it contains, we want to make sure that the existing categorisation is the most useful way of presenting the different types of encryption-related laws and policies. We also want to gather feedback on what further revisions to the map would be most useful for users. This short survey aims to gather consultees' thoughts on the above and to inform our decisions.