Independent Surveillance Review
Statements from Panel Members

On 14 July 2015, the Independent Surveillance Review published its findings. The report can be accessed at www.rusi.org/ISR-Report

To coincide with the release, below are responses from panel members of the Independent Surveillance Review.

"These proposals seek to ensure that the state can continue to protect its citizens through the use of appropriate surveillance powers, while providing for a consistent accountability regime that guarantees their proportionate and lawful use."
Lord (Jonathan) Evans of Weardale

"I want to live as an individual within society.   Yes, I want individuals to have privacy, to be awkward and the have the right to challenge all and sundry.   But I want the society to be the society that allows and underpins these freedoms. For that society to function and bloom I am prepared to share and sometimes sacrifice bits of my privacy to protect and benefit society as a whole. I am part of the balance. I therefore do not complain too much if I need to share my privacy, provided society as a whole sees that there are limits and regulation to such invasion. And that genuine benefits to society as a whole arise from the outcomes. This report will greatly assist legislators in framing modern protections for individual privacy within society."
Lord Rooker

"Communications data is fundamental to all aspects of policing in the 21st-century, not just to counterterrorism. CSP and OC plus missing persons, domestic violence, stalking, serious public disorder as well as volume crime. I was very impressed with the care, commitment, skills and ethics of all the teams we visited."
Professor John Grieve

"The current legal and regulatory framework has been constructed over the years from various sources, both national and European; driven by differing policy motivations and considerations. The resultant regime is neither comprehensive nor comprehensible. The sunset clause in the DRIPA, of end December 2016, provides us with an opportunity to engage in a wide-ranging and inclusive debate about where and how the boundaries should be redrawn; recasting the rules governing state surveillance for the coming decades. I hope that our recommendations contribute to this debate and the outlines of a new settlement."
Professor Ian Walden

"A democracy requires both privacy and security. Give up either one and you give up on democracy. It's understandable that a certain level of secrecy is required for effective criminal justice investigations but for too long that secrecy has been used to conduct surveillance on a massive scale without a clear public mandate. Our series of recommendations and principles lays out a set of criteria that can be used when drafting future

legislation that takes account of both security and privacy. The most intrusive powers of the state must be matched with an equally rigorous system of public accountability. It is not enough to assume public support for bulk surveillance. In a democracy, such methods of surveillance must be avowed and have a public mandate to be legitimate."
Professor Heather Brooke

"The role of the British state is to protect the security, privacy and way of life of our fellow citizens. In our liberal democracy, security and privacy are mutually dependent. They reinforce each other. Extraordinary technological change requires us to monitor rigorously the social contract, including legislation, which allows our democracy to strengthen and prosper. The ISR Report makes an important contribution to this on-going task".
Sir John Scarlett

"Here is the evidence and the arguments to show the world how a mature democracy can both protect the public and at the same time respect our individual rights. Parliament now needs to endorse these concepts in law. It is time to lift the cloud of unjustified suspicion from the digital activity of British intelligence, work that is essential to keep us safe."
Professor Sir David Omand

"This report represents a remarkable achievement in bringing together a diverse group of people with a breadth of expertise and experience, ensuring that the ISR Panel examined the full range of issues regarding privacy and security in Britain today. In particular, we – as a panel – are acutely aware of the rapid pace of technology and its impact on society. To that end I am very keen that the Government support our recommendation to create a new Advisory Council for Digital Technology and Engineering. The Advisory Council will support politicians, policymakers and the public alike and will play a crucial role in supporting our digital future."
Professor Dame Wendy Hall