

THE INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS BILL, 2010

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

AN ACT to provide for and about the interception of communications, the acquisition and disclosure of data relating to communications, the acquisition of the means by which electronic data protected by encryption or passwords may be decrypted or accessed and other related matters

THE INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS BILL, 2010

Explanatory Note

(These notes form no part of the Bill but are intended only to indicate its general purport)

This Bill seeks to provide the legal framework within which public or private communications, which are being transmitted by means of a public or private telecommunications network, can be lawfully intercepted. An interception of communication is lawfully done only when it is done pursuant to a warrant issued by a Judge on an application by an authorized officer. Consequently, it is an offence for a person intentionally to intercept a communication being transmitted without an order of the Court. In general, a warrant would be issued only to investigate, prevent or detect a specified offence, and would be valid for an initial period of ninety days, but may be extended by the Court for two further periods, each for ninety days. The Bill also makes provision for an oral application for a warrant in urgent circumstances, subject to certain safeguards. Finally, the Bill provides that the content of a communication or communication data, which is lawfully obtained, is admissible as evidence in any criminal proceedings.

The Bill is divided into three Parts and contains twenty-three clauses. The Act would be inconsistent with sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution and is therefore required to be passed by a special majority of three-fifths of the members of each House.

Part I of the Bill, which contains clauses 1 to 5, provides for the preliminary provisions, such as the short title, commencement, etc.

Clause 1 provides the short title of the Act, for which this is the Bill.

Clause 2 provides that the Act shall have effect though inconsistent with sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution.

Clause 3 provides that the Act would come into force by Proclamation.

Clause 4 provides that the Act will bind the State.

Clause 5 seeks to provide the interpretation provision.

Part II of the Bill, which contains clauses 6 to 19, provides for the interception of communications, the method to achieve this and the use of the intercepted communications as evidence.

Clause 6 provides that it is unlawful intentionally to intercept a communication during its transmission, except in certain circumstances, such as it is not a private communication and it is intercepted pursuant to any other law. Information lawfully intercepted under the Act will be exempt information for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act.

Clause 7 provides that unlawful possession of a device or any component thereof, the design of which renders it primarily useful for surreptitious interception of private communications is a strict liability offence.

Clause 8 provides that lawful interception of communication can only be done by means of a judicial warrant, applied for in writing by an authorized officer and issued by a Judge after he has taken a number of factors into consideration.

Clause 9 provides for the scope of a warrant, and includes such matters as the nature of the communication to be intercepted, the identity of the person whose communication is to be intercepted, the identity of the agency authorized to make the interception and the name of the applicant.

Clause 10 provides that a warrant may be granted, in the first instance for not more than ninety days, but may be renewed by the Court if satisfied that the renewal is justified in the particular case for a period of ninety days, and for a further period of ninety days in exceptional circumstances.

Clause 11 provides that in urgent circumstances the Court may issue a warrant on an oral application, but within seventy-two hours of its issue the applicant must submit a written application, at which time the Court will review the matter and either revoke or confirm the warrant.

Clause 12 provides that the Court, on an application by an authorized officer, may modify a warrant at any time.

Clause 13 provides that persons who provide a private or public telecommunications service must take the necessary steps to ensure that a warrant can be complied with.

Clause 14 provides that intercepted communications shall be treated as confidential.

Clause 15 provides that the Court may, on application by an authorized officer and after taking into account certain factors, order a person who has a key to protected communication to provide disclosure in respect of that communication only to the authorized officer or any other person specified in the order.

Clause 16 provides that a person to whom a disclosure order is addressed and who is in possession of the key to protected communication must disclose to the authorized officer the communication in an intelligible form or the key, or information to get the key. The authorized officer must access only the protected communication mentioned in the order and ensure the confidentiality and security of the key and must destroy it as soon as it is no longer needed.

Clause 17 provides that the content of a communication lawfully obtained is admissible as evidence in any criminal proceedings.

Clause 18 provides that a designated person may, by written notice, require the provider of a telecommunications service who is in possession of or capable of obtaining any communication data to disclose such data, not later than one month from the date of the notice, to an authorized person in the interest of national security or the prevention or detection of an offence.

Clause 19 provides that communication data which is lawfully obtained is admissible as evidence, but in so doing the method used to get the data and the person who supplied it, except in special circumstances, shall not be disclosed.

Part III of the Bill, which contains clauses 20 to 23, provides for certain miscellaneous provisions, such as offences, annual reporting by the relevant Minister and power to make regulations.

Clause 20 provides that an authorized officer is not liable if he acts in good faith under the Act.

Clause 21 provides that it is a summary offence to make a false statement in an application or affidavit under the Act, or intentionally to disclose information obtained by a warrant or in contravention of the Act or to have possession of intercepted communications without authority.

Clause 22 provides that the Minister shall prepare an annual report on the operations of the Act and cause it to be laid in Parliament.

Clause 23 provides that the Minister will have the power to make Regulations to give effect to the Act, subject to the affirmative resolution of Parliament.

BILL

AN ACT to provide for and about the interception of communications, the acquisition and disclosure of data relating to communications, the acquisition of the means by which electronic data protected by encryption or passwords may be decrypted or accessed and other related matters

[, 2010]

WHEREAS it is enacted by section 13(1) of the Preamble Constitution that an Act of Parliament to which that

section applies may expressly declare that it shall have effect even though inconsistent with sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution and, if any Act does so declare, it shall have effect accordingly:

And whereas it is provided in section 13(2) of the Constitution that an Act of Parliament to which that section applies is one the Bill for which has been passed by both Houses of Parliament and at the final vote thereon in each House has been supported by the votes of not less than three-fifths of all the members of that House:

And whereas it is necessary and expedient that the provisions of this Act shall have effect even though inconsistent with sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution:

Enactment ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as follows:

PART I PRELIMINARY

Short title **1.** This Act may be cited as the Interception of Communications Act, 2010.

Act inconsistent with Constitution **2.** This Act shall have effect even though inconsistent with sections 4 and 5 of the Constitution.

Commencement **3.** This Act shall come into operation on such date to be fixed by the President by Proclamation.

Acts binds the State **4.** This Act binds the State.

Interpretation **5.** (1) In this Act—
“authorized officer” means an officer or a person authorized by the Minister;
“disclosure order” means an order under section 15 requiring the disclosure of a protected communication;

“electronic signature” means anything in electronic form which—

- (a) is incorporated into, or otherwise logically associated with, any electronic communication or other electronic data;
- (b) is generated by the signatory or other source of the communication or data; and
- (c) is used for the purpose of facilitating, by means of a link between the signatory or other source and the communication or data, the establishment of the authenticity of the communication or data, the establishment of its integrity, or both;

“intercept”, in relation to a communication, means listening to or recording, by any means, such a communication in its passage over a telecommunications network without the knowledge of the person making the communication;

“Judge” means a Judge of the High Court;

“key” in relation to any protected communication, means any key, code, password, algorithm or other data the use of which (with or without other keys)—

- (a) allows access to a protected communication; or
- (b) facilitates the putting of a protected communication into an intelligible form;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom the responsibility for national security is assigned;

“offence” means any offence where the penalty, whether on summary conviction or conviction on indictment, is imprisonment for one year or more, and includes an offence where death, imprisonment for the remainder of a person’s natural life or life imprisonment is the penalty fixed by law;

“private communication” means a communication that is transmitted or being transmitted by the sender, to a person intended by the sender to receive it, in circumstances in which it is reasonable for the sender and the intended recipient to expect that the communication will not be intercepted by any person other than the intended recipient, and includes any radio-based telephone communication that is treated electronically or otherwise for the purpose of preventing intelligible reception by any person other than the intended recipient;

“private telecommunications network” means any telecommunications network that, without itself being a public telecommunications network, is a network in relation to which the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) it is attached, directly or indirectly and whether or not for the purposes of the communication in question, to a public telecommunications network; and
- (b) there is apparatus comprised in the network which is both located in the State and used, with or without other apparatus, for making the attachment to the public telecommunications network;

“protected communication” means any electronic data which, without the key to the communication, cannot, or cannot readily, be accessed or put into an intelligible form;

“public telecommunications network” means a telecommunications network used by any person to provide telecommunications services to the public and includes a network whereby the public can send or receive telecommunications services to or from—

(a) anywhere in the State;

(b) anywhere outside of the State,

and includes a network commonly known as a public switched telephone network;

“telecommunications” means the transmission of information by means of guided or unguided electromagnetic, electrochemical or other forms of energy, including but not limited to information—

(a) in the form of—

(i) speech, music or other sounds;

(ii) visual images, whether still or animated;

(iii) data or text;

(iv) any type of signals;

(b) in any form other than those specified in paragraph (a);

(c) in any combination of forms; and

(d) transmitted between persons and persons, things and things or persons and things;

“telecommunications network” means a system of telecommunications or any part of such system, whether wholly or partly in

Trinidad and Tobago or elsewhere, whereby a person or thing can send or receive information to or from any point in the State;

“telecommunications service” means a service provided by means of a telecommunications network to any person for the transmission of information from, to or within the State without change in the content or form;

“terrorist act” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2(1) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2005.

Act No. 26 of 2005

(2) In this Act, “the interest of national security” shall be construed as including the protection of the State from threats of espionage, sabotage, any terrorist act or subversion.

PART II

INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATION

Prohibition of interception

6. (1) Except as provided in this section, a person who intentionally intercepts a communication in the course of its transmission by means of a telecommunications network commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for three years.

(2) Notwithstanding any other law, a person does not commit an offence under this section if—

- (a) the communication is intercepted in obedience to a warrant issued by a Judge under section 8 or 11;
- (b) he has reasonable grounds for believing that the person to whom or by whom the communication is transmitted consents to the interception;

- (c) the communication is intercepted as an ordinary incident to the provision of telecommunications services or to the enforcement of any written law relating to the use of those services;
- (d) the communication is not a private communication;
- (e) the communication is a stored communication and is acquired in accordance with any other law; or
- (f) the interception is of a communication transmitted by a network that is not a public telecommunications network and is done by a person who has—
 - (i) a right to control the operation or use of the network; or
 - (ii) the express or implied consent of a person referred to in subparagraph (i).

(3) The Court by which a person is convicted of an offence under this section may order that any device used to intercept a communication in the commission of the offence shall be forfeited and disposed of as the Court may think fit.

(4) For the purpose of subsection (1), a communication shall be taken to be in the course of transmission by means of a telecommunications network at any time when the network by means of which the communication is being or has been transmitted is used for storing the communication in a manner that enables the intended recipient to collect it or otherwise have access to it.

(5) Information lawfully intercepted under this Act is exempt information for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act.

Chap. 22:02

7. (1) A person who possesses a device or any component thereof, the design of which renders it primarily useful for unauthorized interception of

Possession of interception devices

private communications, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for five years.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to—

- (a) a person in possession of such a device or component under the direction of an authorized officer in order to assist that officer in the course of his duties under this Act;
- (b) any other person in possession of such a device or component for the purpose of national security.

(3) An offence under this section shall be one of strict liability.

Warrant for
interception

8. (1) Subject to this section, an authorized officer may apply *ex parte* to a Judge for a warrant authorizing the person named in the warrant—

- (a) to intercept, in the course of their transmission by means of a public or private telecommunications network, such communications as are described in the warrant; and
- (b) to disclose the intercepted communication to such persons and in such manner as may be specified in the warrant.

(2) A Judge shall not issue a warrant under this section unless he is satisfied that—

- (a) the warrant is necessary—
 - (i) in the interests of national security; or
 - (ii) for the prevention or detection of any offence where there are reasonable grounds for believing that such an offence has been, is being or is about to be committed;

- (b) information obtained from the interception is likely to assist in investigations concerning any matter mentioned in paragraph (a);
- (c) other investigative procedures—
 - (i) have not been or are unlikely to be successful in attaining the information sought to be acquired by means of the warrant;
 - (ii) are too dangerous to adopt in the circumstances; or
 - (iii) having regard to the urgency of the case, are impracticable; and
- (d) it would be in the best interest of the administration of justice to issue the warrant.

(3) An application for a warrant under this section shall, subject to section 11, be in writing and be accompanied by—

- (a) an affidavit deposing to the following matters:
 - (i) the name of the authorized officer and the entity on behalf of which the application is made;
 - (ii) the facts or allegations giving rise to the application;
 - (iii) sufficient information for a Judge to issue a warrant on the terms set out in section 9;
 - (iv) the period for which the warrant is requested;
 - (v) the grounds relied on for the issue of a warrant under subsection (2); and
 - (vi) if the applicant will be seeking the assistance of any person or entity in

implementing the warrant, sufficient information for a Judge so to direct in accordance with section 9(3); and

(b) a written authorization signed by the Minister where the warrant is applied for on the ground of national security, authorizing the application on that ground.

(4) The records relating to every application for a warrant or the renewal or modification of a warrant shall be sealed, until otherwise ordered by the Court.

(5) A person who discloses the existence of a warrant or an application for a warrant, other than to a person to whom such disclosure is authorized for the purpose of this Act, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for three years.

Scope of warrant

9. (1) In this section, “address” includes a location, e-mail address, telephone number or other number or designation used for the purpose of identifying telecommunications networks or apparatus.

(2) A warrant shall authorize the interception of—

(a) communication transmitted by means of a public or private telecommunications network to or from one or more addresses specified in the warrant, being an address or addresses likely to be used for the transmission of communications to or from—

(i) one particular person specified or described in the warrant; or

(ii) one particular set of premises so specified or described; and

(b) such other communications, if any, as is necessary to intercept in order to intercept communications falling within paragraph (a).

- (3) A warrant shall specify—
- (a) the identity, if known, of the person whose communications are to be intercepted;
 - (b) the nature and address of the telecommunications equipment in respect of which interception is authorized;
 - (c) a description of the type of communications sought to be intercepted, and, where applicable, a statement of the particular offence to which it relates;
 - (d) the identity of the agency authorized to intercept the communication and the person making the application; and
 - (e) the period for which it is valid.

(4) Where the applicant intends to seek the assistance of any person or entity in implementing the warrant, the Judge shall, on the applicant's request, direct appropriate persons or entities to furnish information, facilities, or technical assistance necessary to accomplish the interception.

(5) A warrant may contain such ancillary provisions as are necessary to secure its implementation in accordance with this Act.

10. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a warrant Duration of warrant shall be issued for such period as may be specified in it, not exceeding ninety days (in this section referred to as "the initial period").

- (2) A Judge may—
- (a) on an application by an authorized officer before the expiration of the initial period; and
 - (b) if satisfied that a renewal of the warrant is justified in any particular case,

renew the warrant for such period as he may specify in it (in this section referred to as “the first renewal period”) not exceeding ninety days from the date of expiration of the initial period.

(3) Where a Judge is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist which would justify a renewal of the warrant beyond the first renewal period, the Judge may, on an application by an authorized officer before the expiration of that period, renew the warrant for such further period as he may specify in it, not exceeding ninety days from the expiration of the first renewal period.

(4) An application for a renewal of a warrant under subsection (2) or (3) shall be in writing and accompanied by an affidavit deposing to the circumstances relied on as justifying the renewal of the warrant.

(5) If, at any time before the end of any of the periods referred to in this section, a Judge is satisfied, after hearing representations made by the authorized officer, that a warrant is no longer necessary as mentioned in section 8(2), he shall revoke the warrant.

Application for
warrant in urgent
circumstances

11. (1) Where a Judge is satisfied that the urgency of the circumstances so requires—

(a) he may dispense with the requirements for a written application and affidavit and proceed to hear an oral application for a warrant; and

(b) if satisfied that a warrant is necessary as mentioned in section 8(2), he shall issue a warrant in accordance with this Act.

(2) Where a warrant is issued under this section, the applicant shall, within seventy-two hours of the time of issue of it, submit to the Judge a written application and affidavit in accordance with section 8.

(3) Where an applicant has submitted a written application and affidavit in accordance with subsection (2), the Judge shall review his decision to issue the warrant and shall—

- (a) make an order revoking the warrant if—
 - (i) he is not satisfied that the warrant continues to be necessary as mentioned in section 8(2); or
 - (ii) the applicant fails to submit a written application and affidavit as required by subsection (2); or
- (b) make an order affirming the warrant, if satisfied that the warrant continues to be necessary as mentioned in section 8(2).

(4) Where a warrant issued under this section is revoked under subsection (3)(a), it shall cease to have effect upon such revocation.

(5) Where a warrant is affirmed under subsection (3)(b), section 10 shall apply with respect to its duration.

(6) Where an applicant has not submitted a written application and affidavit in accordance with subsection (2), the warrant issued under this section ceases to have effect upon the expiration of seventy-two hours.

12. A Judge may modify a warrant at any time, after Modification of warrants hearing representations from an authorized officer and if satisfied that there is any change in the circumstances which constituted grounds for the issue or renewal of the warrant.

13. (1) Every person or entity who provides a telecom- Duties of persons providing assistance or telecommunications services munications service by means of a public or private telecommunications network shall take all steps that are necessary to ensure that prompt assistance can be provided where necessary to comply with interception warrants granted under this Act.

(2) A person or entity directed to provide assistance by way of information, facilities or technical assistance under section 8(3) shall, without delay, comply with that direction and in such a manner that the assistance is rendered—

- (a) as unobtrusively; and
- (b) with the minimum interference to the services that such person or entity normally provides to the party affected by the warrant,

as can reasonably be expected in the circumstances.

(3) No action shall be brought in any Court against a person or entity for any act done in good faith in pursuance of a direction to provide information, facilities or technical assistance under section 9(3).

(4) Where a person or entity acts in contravention of subsection (1) or (2), then without prejudice to any other action with respect to the contravention which is lawfully available, that person or entity commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one million dollars.

Confidentiality of
intercepted
communication

14. Where a Judge issues a warrant, he shall issue such directions as he considers appropriate for the purpose of requiring the authorized officer to make such arrangements as are necessary—

- (a) for ensuring that—
 - (i) the extent to which the intercepted communication is disclosed;
 - (ii) the number of persons to whom any of that communication is disclosed;
 - (iii) the extent to which any such communication is copied; and
 - (iv) the number of copies made of any of the communication,

is limited to the minimum that is necessary for the purpose of the investigation in relation to which the warrant was issued or of any prosecution for an offence; and

- (b) for ensuring that each copy made of any of that communication is stored in a secure manner for so long as its retention is necessary for any purpose mentioned in paragraph (a).

15. (1) Where a protected communication has come into the possession of an authorized officer by virtue of a warrant, or is likely to do so, and the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that—

Order requiring disclosure of protected communication

- (a) a key to the communication is in the possession of any person; and
- (b) disclosure of the key is necessary for the purpose of the investigation in relation to which the warrant was issued,

the officer may apply to a Judge for an order requiring the person whom he believes to have possession of the key to provide disclosure in respect of the protected communication.

(2) An order under this section shall—

- (a) be in writing;
- (b) describe the communication to which the order relates;
- (c) specify the time by which the order is to be complied with; and
- (d) set out the disclosure that is required by the order, and the form and manner in which the disclosure is to be made,

and any such order may require the person to whom it is addressed to keep secret the contents and existence of the order.

(3) An order under this section shall not require the disclosure of any key which—

- (a) is intended to be used for the purpose only of generating electronic signatures; and
- (b) has not in fact been used for any other purpose.

(4) In granting the order required for the purpose of subsections (1) and (2), the Judge shall take into account—

- (a) the extent and nature of any protected communication, the key to which is the same as that to the intercepted communication; and
- (b) any adverse effect that complying with the order might have on a business carried on by the person to whom the order is addressed,

and shall require only such disclosure as is proportionate to what is sought to be achieved, allowing, where appropriate, for disclosure in such manner as would result in the putting of the communication in intelligible form other than by disclosure of the key itself.

(5) An order under this section shall not require the making of any disclosure to a person other than—

- (a) the authorized officer; or
- (b) such other person as may be specified in the order.

Effect of disclosure
order

16. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person to whom a disclosure order is addressed—

- (a) is entitled to use any key in his possession to obtain access to the protected communication; and
- (b) in accordance with the order, shall disclose the protected communication in an intelligible form.

(2) Where a disclosure order requires the person to whom it is addressed to disclose a protected communication in an intelligible form, that person shall be taken to have complied with that requirement if—

- (a) he makes, instead, a disclosure of any key to the protected communication that is in his possession; and
- (b) the disclosure is made in accordance with the order, with respect to the person to whom, and the time in which, he was required to disclose the communication.

(3) Where an order requiring access to a protected communication or the putting of the protected communication into intelligible form is addressed to a person who is—

- (a) not in possession of the protected communication to which the order relates; or
- (b) incapable, without the use of a key that is not in his possession, of obtaining access to the protected communication or disclosing it in an intelligible form,

he shall be taken to have complied with the order if he discloses any key to the protected communication that is in his possession.

(4) It shall be sufficient for the purpose of complying with an order for the person to whom it is addressed to disclose only those keys the disclosure of which is sufficient to enable the person to whom they are disclosed to obtain access to the protected communication and to put it in an intelligible form.

(5) Where—

- (a) the disclosure required by an order allows the person to whom it is addressed to comply with the order without disclosing all of the keys in his possession; and

- (b) there are different keys, or combination of keys, in the possession of that person the disclosure of which would constitute compliance with the order,

the person may select which of the keys, or combination of keys, to disclose for the purpose of complying with the order.

(6) Where a disclosure order is addressed to a person who—

- (a) was in possession of the key but is no longer in possession of it;
- (b) if he had continued to have the key in his possession, would be required by virtue of the order to disclose it; and
- (c) is in possession of information that would facilitate the obtaining or discovery of the key or the putting of the communication into an intelligible form,

that person shall disclose to the person to whom he would have been required to disclose the key, all such information as is mentioned in paragraph (c).

(7) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a disclosure order commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for one year.

(8) An authorized officer who obtains a disclosure order shall ensure that such arrangements are made as are necessary for securing that—

- (a) a key disclosed in pursuance of the order is used to obtain access to or put into intelligible form only the protected communications in relation to which the order was given;

- (b) every key disclosed in pursuance to the order is stored in a secure manner, and any records of such key are destroyed as soon as no longer needed to access the communication or put it into an intelligible form; and
- (c) the number of—
 - (i) persons to whom the key is disclosed or otherwise made available; and
 - (ii) copies made of the key,

is limited to the minimum that is necessary for the purpose of enabling the protected communication to be accessed or put into an intelligible form.

(9) An authorized officer who knowingly contravenes subsection (8) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for two years.

17. (1) In this section, “sensitive information” means Admissibility of evidence any information that suggests or tends to suggest—

- (a) any of the details pertaining to the method by which the communication was intercepted; or
- (b) the identity of any party carrying out or assisting in the interception.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the contents of a communication that is obtained by interception permitted by section 6 shall be admissible as evidence in any criminal proceedings.

(3) Where a warrant issued in accordance with this Act is revoked in accordance with section 11, the contents of any communication intercepted under that direction shall be inadmissible as evidence in any criminal proceedings which may be contemplated, unless the Court is of the opinion that the admission of such evidence would not render the trial unfair or otherwise detrimental to the administration of justice.

- (4) In any criminal proceedings—
- (a) no evidence shall be adduced and no question shall be asked of any witness that suggests or tends to suggest the disclosure of sensitive information;
 - (b) a statement by the witness that the interception of the communication was permitted by virtue of section 6(2)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f), as the case may be, shall be sufficient disclosure as to the source and origin of the communication; and
 - (c) in proving the truth of a statement referred to in paragraph (b), the witness shall not be asked to disclose sensitive information.

(5) Subsection (3) shall not apply to any criminal proceedings in respect of an offence under this Act, but if the Court is satisfied that—

- (a) the disclosure of sensitive information would jeopardize the course of any investigation being carried out by authorized officers; and
- (b) the parties to the proceedings would not be unduly prejudiced thereby, the Court may exclude such disclosure.

Disclosure of
communications
data

18. (1) In this section—

“communications data” means any—

- (a) traffic data comprised in or attached to a communication, whether by the sender or otherwise, for the purpose of any telecommunications network by means of which the communication is being or may be transmitted;
- (b) information, that does not include the contents of a communication, other than any data falling within paragraph (a), which is about the use made by any person—
 - (i) of any telecommunications network; or

- (ii) of any part of a telecommunications network in connection with the provision to or use by, any person of any telecommunications service;

“designated person” means the Minister or any person designated for the purpose of this section by the Minister;

“traffic data”, in relation to a communication, means any data—

- (a) identifying, or purporting to identify, any person, apparatus or location to or from which the communication is or may be transmitted;
- (b) identifying or selecting, or purporting to identify or select, apparatus through or by means of which the communication is or may be transmitted;
- (c) comprising signals for the actuation of—
 - (i) apparatus used for the purpose of a telecommunications network for effecting, in whole or in part, the transmission of any communication; or
 - (ii) any telecommunications network in which that apparatus is comprised;
- (d) identifying the data or other data as data comprised in or attached to a particular communication; or
- (e) identifying a computer file or computer program, access to which is obtained or which is run by means

of the communication, to the extent only that the file or program is identified by reference to the apparatus in which it is stored, and references to traffic data being attached to a communication include references to the data and the communication being logically associated with each other.

(2) Where it appears to the designated person that a person providing a telecommunications service is or may be in possession of, or capable of obtaining, any communications data, the designated person may, by notice in writing, require the provider—

- (a) to disclose to an authorized officer all of the data in his possession or subsequently obtained by him; or
- (b) if the provider is not already in possession of the data, to obtain the data and so disclose it.

(3) A designated person shall not issue a notice under subsection (2) in relation to any communications data unless he is satisfied that it is necessary to obtain that data—

- (a) in the interests of national security; or
- (b) for the prevention or detection of any offence, where there are reasonable grounds for believing that—
 - (i) such an offence has been, is being or is about to be committed; and
 - (ii) the sender or recipient of any communication, or the subscriber to the telecommunications service, to which the data relates, is the subject of an investigation in connection with the offence.

- (4) A notice under subsection (2) shall state—
- (a) the communications data in relation to which it applies;
 - (b) the authorized officer to whom the disclosure is to be made;
 - (c) the manner in which the disclosure is to be made;
 - (d) the matters falling within subsection (3) by reference to which the notice is issued; and
 - (e) the date on which it is issued.

- (5) A notice under this section shall not require—
- (a) any communications data to be obtained after the end of the period of one month beginning on the date on which the notice is issued; or
 - (b) the disclosure, after the end of such period, of any communications data not in the possession of the provider of the telecommunications service, or required to be obtained by him, during that period.

(6) Sections 13 and 14 shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the disclosure of data pursuant to a notice issued under this section.

(7) Subject to subsection (8), a provider of a telecommunications service, to whom a notice is issued under this section, shall not disclose to any person the existence or operation of the notice, or any information from which such existence or operation could reasonably be inferred.

(8) The disclosure referred to in subsection (7) may be made to—

- (a) an officer or agent of the service provider, for the purpose of ensuring that the notice is complied with;

(b) an attorney-at-law for the purpose of obtaining legal advice or representation in relation to the notice,

and a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) shall not disclose the existence or operation of the notice, except to the authorized officer specified in the notice or for the purpose of—

- (i) ensuring that the notice is complied with, or obtaining legal advice or representation in relation to the notice, in the case of an officer or agent of the service provider; or
- (ii) giving legal advice or making representations in relation to the notice, in the case of an attorney-at-law.

(9) An authorized officer shall not disclose any communications data obtained under this Act, except—

- (a) as permitted by the notice;
- (b) in connection with the performance of his duties; or
- (c) if the Minister directs such disclosure to a foreign government or agency of such government where there exists between the State and such foreign government an agreement for the mutual exchange of that kind of information and the Minister considers it in the public interest that such disclosure be made.

(10) A person who contravenes subsection (7), (8) or (9) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of three hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for five years.

Admissibility of
communications data

19. (1) Subject to subsection (2), communications data obtained in accordance with section 18 shall be admissible as evidence in accordance with the law relating to the admissibility of evidence.

(2) In admitting into evidence any communications data referred to in subsection (1)—

- (a) no question shall be asked of any witness that suggests or tends to suggest the disclosure of any of the details pertaining to the method by which the data was obtained or the identity of any party who supplied the data;
- (b) a statement by the witness that the data was obtained by virtue of an order under section 19 shall be sufficient disclosure as to the source or origin of the data; and
- (c) in proving the truth of a statement referred to in paragraph (b), the witness shall not be asked to disclose any of the matters referred to in paragraph (a).

(3) Subsection (2) shall not apply to any proceedings in respect of an offence under this Act, but if the Court is satisfied that—

- (a) the disclosure would jeopardize the course of any investigations being carried out by an authorized officer; and
- (b) the parties to the proceedings would not be unduly prejudiced thereby,

the Court may exclude disclosure of the matters referred to in subsection (2)(a).

PART III

GENERAL PROVISIONS

20. An authorized officer shall not be liable for any act done by him in good faith pursuant to this Act. Protection of authorized officer

21. (1) A person who, in an application or affidavit under this Act, makes a statement which he knows to be false in any material particular commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for three years. Offences

(2) A person who intentionally discloses the contents of any communication—

(a) obtained by means of a warrant, to a person to whom he is not authorized to disclose the communication; or

(b) obtained in a contravention of this Act,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for three years.

(3) Subsection (2) shall not apply to the disclosure of the contents of any communication obtained by means of a warrant which is made, in any criminal proceedings, to a person charged with an offence or to the attorney-at-law representing that person in those proceedings.

(4) A person who intentionally has in his possession communications intercepted under this Act and who is not authorized to have such communications commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for two years.

(5) A person who intentionally has in his possession communications intercepted under this Act and who is not authorized to have such communications and who discloses such communications commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for three years.

Annual Report

22. (1) The Minister shall, as soon as possible after the end of each year, in relation to the operation of the Act in the immediately preceding year, prepare a report relating to—

(a) the number of warrants applied for to intercept communications;

(b) the number of warrants granted by the Court;

- (c) the number of warrants applied for and granted under section 11;
- (d) the average period for which warrants were given;
- (e) the number of warrants refused by the Court;
- (f) the number of applications made for renewals;
- (g) the number and nature of interceptions made pursuant to the warrants granted;
- (h) the offences in respect of which warrants were granted, specifying the number of warrants given in respect of each of those offences;
- (i) the numbers of persons arrested whose identity became known to an authorized officer as a result of an interception under a warrant;
- (j) the number of criminal proceedings commenced by the State in which private communications obtained by interception under a warrant were adduced in evidence and the number of those proceedings that resulted in a conviction;
- (k) the number of criminal investigations in which information obtained as a result of the interception of a private communication under a warrant was used although the private communication was not adduced in evidence in criminal proceedings commenced by the State as a result of the investigations;
- (l) the number of prosecutions commenced against persons under sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 19 and 21 and the outcome of those prosecutions;

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that this Act is one the Bill for which has been passed by the Senate and at the final vote thereon in the Senate has been supported by the votes of not less than three-fifths of all the members of the Senate, that is to say, by the votes of members of the Senate.

Clerk of the Senate

I confirm the above.

President of the Senate

No. 22 of 2010

FIRST SESSION
TENTH PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BILL

AN ACT to provide for and about the interception of communications, the acquisition and disclosure of data relating to communications, the acquisition of the means by which electronic data protected by encryption or passwords may be decrypted or accessed and other related matters

Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time