

Table 1

Requests for information disclosure made by the Government in each half-year from 2015 to 2016 to information and communication technology (ICT) companies

Department	Period	(i) Total number of ICT companies involved	(ii) Names and types of ICT companies involved (e.g. Internet service providers, device producers, social media and search engines) (Note 1)	(iii) Total number of requests made	(iv) Total number of user accounts involved	(v) Types of information requested for disclosure (e.g. user names, Internet Protocol addresses and contact methods) and the respective numbers of the requests concerned	(vi) Nature of information requested for disclosure (i.e. metadata and/or content of communication) and the respective numbers of the requests concerned	(vii) Reasons for making the requests (e.g. for investigation of cases, law enforcement and others) and the respective numbers of the requests concerned	(viii) Number of requests made under a court order	(ix) Number of requests acceded to	(x) Reasons why the requests were not acceded to (e.g. the request not made under a court order, failure to provide appropriate legal documents, insufficient justifications, not in compliance with the policies of ICT companies, and others) and the respective numbers of the requests concerned
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Jan-Jun 2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul-Dec 2015	1	Website	1	1	User registration information	Metadata (Note 2)	Investigation of crime	0	1	N/A
	Jan-Jun 2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul-Dec 2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Companies Registry	Jan-Jun 2015	1	Foreign service provider	1	3	Contact information of the person-in-charge of the website	Metadata (Note 2)	Suspected infringement of the Companies Registry's copyright	0	0	The service provider can only provide the relevant information with an order issued by the local court
	Jul-Dec 2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jan-Jun 2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul-Dec 2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inland Revenue Department (Note 3)	Jan-Jun 2015	5	Cannot be provided	14	10	Cannot be provided	Cannot be provided	To enforce the Business Registration	Cannot be provided	11	Cannot be provided

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	Jul-Dec 2015	8	Cannot be provided	20	15	Cannot be provided	Cannot be provided	Ordinance and the Inland Revenue	Cannot be provided	10	Cannot be provided
	Jan-Jun 2016	2	Cannot be provided	4	4	Cannot be provided	Cannot be provided	Ordinance by requiring persons carrying on business through the Internet to register their businesses and pay profits tax	Cannot be provided	4	N/A
	Jul-Dec 2016	3	Cannot be provided	4	3	Cannot be provided	Cannot be provided		Cannot be provided	4	N/A
Office of the Communications Authority	Jan-Jun 2015	10	Social media	1	1	Account information, including user names, user email addresses, telephone numbers, Internet Protocol addresses and any other relevant information	See (v) for nature of information requested	Investigation under the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance	0	1	N/A

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			Internet service provider	29	29	Registrant information of the senders of commercial electronic messages, including user names, user addresses, telephone numbers and any other relevant information	See (v) for nature of information requested	Investigation under the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance	0	29	N/A
	Jul-Dec 2015	6	Internet service provider	26	26	Registrant information of the senders of commercial electronic messages, including user names, user addresses, telephone numbers and any other relevant information	See (v) for nature of information requested	Investigation under the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance	0	26	N/A

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	Jan-Jun 2016	6	Internet service provider	9	12	Registrant information of the senders of commercial electronic messages, including user names, user addresses, telephone numbers and any other relevant information	See (v) for nature of information requested	Investigation under the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance	0	9	N/A
	Jul-Dec 2016	3	Internet service provider	5	6	Registrant information of the senders of commercial electronic messages, including user names, user addresses, telephone numbers and any other relevant information	See (v) for nature of information requested	Investigation under the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance	0	5	N/A
Customs and	Jan-Jun	14	Internet	71	110	User account	User account	Crime prevention	0	71	N/A

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Excise Department	2015		service provider/ Internet platform/ Website			details or IP address	details or IP address	and detection			
	Jul-Dec 2015	12	Internet service provider/ Internet platform/ Website	73	96	User account details or IP address	User account details or IP address	Crime prevention and detection	0	73	N/A
	Jan-Jun 2016	19	Internet service provider/ Internet platform/ Website	65	68	User account details or IP address	User account details or IP address	Crime prevention and detection	0	65	N/A
	Jul-Dec 2016	15	Internet service provider/ Internet platform/ Website	58	76	User account details or IP address	User account details or IP address	Crime prevention and detection	0	58	N/A

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Hong Kong Police Force	Jan-Jun 2015	Relevant statistics are not available	Local and foreign service providers	2 205	2 205	User information	Metadata (Note 2)	Crime prevention and detection (primarily involving technology crimes or crimes relating to the use of the Internet)	Relevant statistics are not available	Partially	In some cases, user accounts or records that do not exist are involved, or the registered user or Internet Protocol address is not in Hong Kong. Under these circumstances, the service providers cannot provide the information.
	Jul-Dec 2015	Relevant statistics are not available	Local and foreign service providers	1 792	1 792	User information	Metadata (Note 2)	Crime prevention and detection (primarily involving technology crimes or crimes relating to the use of the Internet)	Relevant statistics are not available	Partially	In some cases, user accounts or records that do not exist are involved, or the registered user or Internet Protocol address is not in Hong Kong. Under these circumstances, the service providers cannot provide the information.

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	Jan-Jun 2016	Relevant statistics are not available	Local and foreign service providers	1 846	1 846	User information	Metadata (Note 2)	Crime prevention and detection (primarily involving technology crimes or crimes relating to the use of the Internet)	Relevant statistics are not available	Partially	In some cases, user accounts or records that do not exist are involved, or the registered user or Internet Protocol address is not in Hong Kong. Under these circumstances, the service providers cannot provide the information.
	Jul-Dec 2016	Relevant statistics are not available	Local and foreign service providers	1 602	1 602	User information	Metadata (Note 2)	Crime prevention and detection (primarily involving technology crimes or crimes relating to the use of the Internet)	Relevant statistics are not available	Partially	In some cases, user accounts or records that do not exist are involved, or the registered user or Internet Protocol address is not in Hong Kong. Under these circumstances, the service providers cannot provide the information.

Note 1: Since the question involves commercial information of a large number of service providers, the names of individual service providers cannot be made public.

Note 2: The nature of information requested for disclosure from Internet service providers is metadata, which includes IP addresses, user information and/or login records.

Note 3: Except the information provided herein, other information cannot be provided due to the secrecy provisions under the Business Registration Ordinance (Cap. 310) and the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap.112).