

Dear Sir,

I would like to add my voice to the consultation to ask that Wi-Fi providers be excepted from responsibility for traffic flowing across their networks. Wi-Fi providers, businesses and public entities like libraries, can provide important access to the network for all layers of society and by so-doing foster innovation.

At our business we already feel the chilling effects of these types of concerns and will not make Wi-Fi available to others for fear that we're culpable if a guest connects a laptop with file sharing software accidentally left on. This adds unnecessary friction to the business and we try to grow and hire.

Additionally our landlords absorb extra costs and friction in doing business by fearing that they cannot provide open wireless access to the small business tenants in their workspace without exposing themselves to risk under the DEA.

When I lived in the U.S.A., in Silicon Valley and Austin, TX (important technology hubs), every coffee shop and cafe had free Wi-Fi and this contributed to a culture of innovation. It is disappointing that the Initial Obligations Code in its current form will stifle this in the area I work around the so called "Silicon Roundabout" or "Tech City".

I believe that good-faith network providers should be given safe-harbour for traffic flowing across their networks when they make those networks available to the public.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Harding
Director
Well Informed Limited