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UK Internet Censorship

Open Rights Group @openrightsgroup

We want a society built on laws, free from disproportionate, unaccountable surveillance and censorship.

Set up 2005, we have 3,000 members and many more activists

About me:

Jim Killock, Executive Director @jimkillock



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What is taking place?

Soft censorship:

filtering

CTIRU “requests”

PIPCU “requests” to Nominet for .uk domain suspensions

Hard censorship:

Copyright and trade mark blocking



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Common problems

1 Definitions and scope

2 Transparency

3 Redress for mistakes

4 Accountability and oversight



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How much censorship?

CTIRU Counter Terrorism Internet Referrals Unit

Based at Met Police, refuses all FoI requests, on grounds of national security and prevention of crime

130,000 items removed annually from web services



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CTIRU process

1 Send notice of criminality to FB, Twitter, Google

Requests removal under T&Cs

2 Service removes it, as if removed by a moderator



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Problems with CTIRU process

1 Pretends it is not a legal demand:

Notification in EU law creates “actual knowledge” of a crime, and therefore the platform is liable if it is left up

Thus, for a platform a notice is a legal demand



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Problems with CTIRU process

2 Lacks accountability

What happens if CTIRU repeatedly remove something legal? There is no means to stop CTIRU exceeding their powers

Nobody reviews their decisions



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Problems with CTIRU process

3 Telling users that they may be breaking the law

4 Telling you that your friends are circulating illegal content

5 Giving people a means to seek help



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Police investigator or censor?

No transparency at CTIRU because it sees its role as policing rather than censorship.

This seems a stretch, but it is the result of asking the police to do the job, rather than creating a body to do it.



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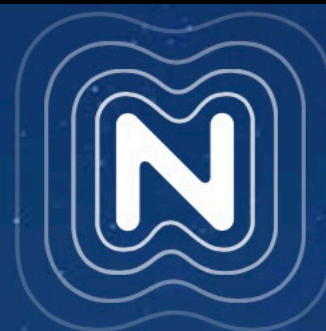
What is extremism?

Today it is far right extremism, and Jihadism. Definitions (not my topic today) are however wide and could include anarchists and environmentalists as they have in the past.



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WELCOME TO NOMINET

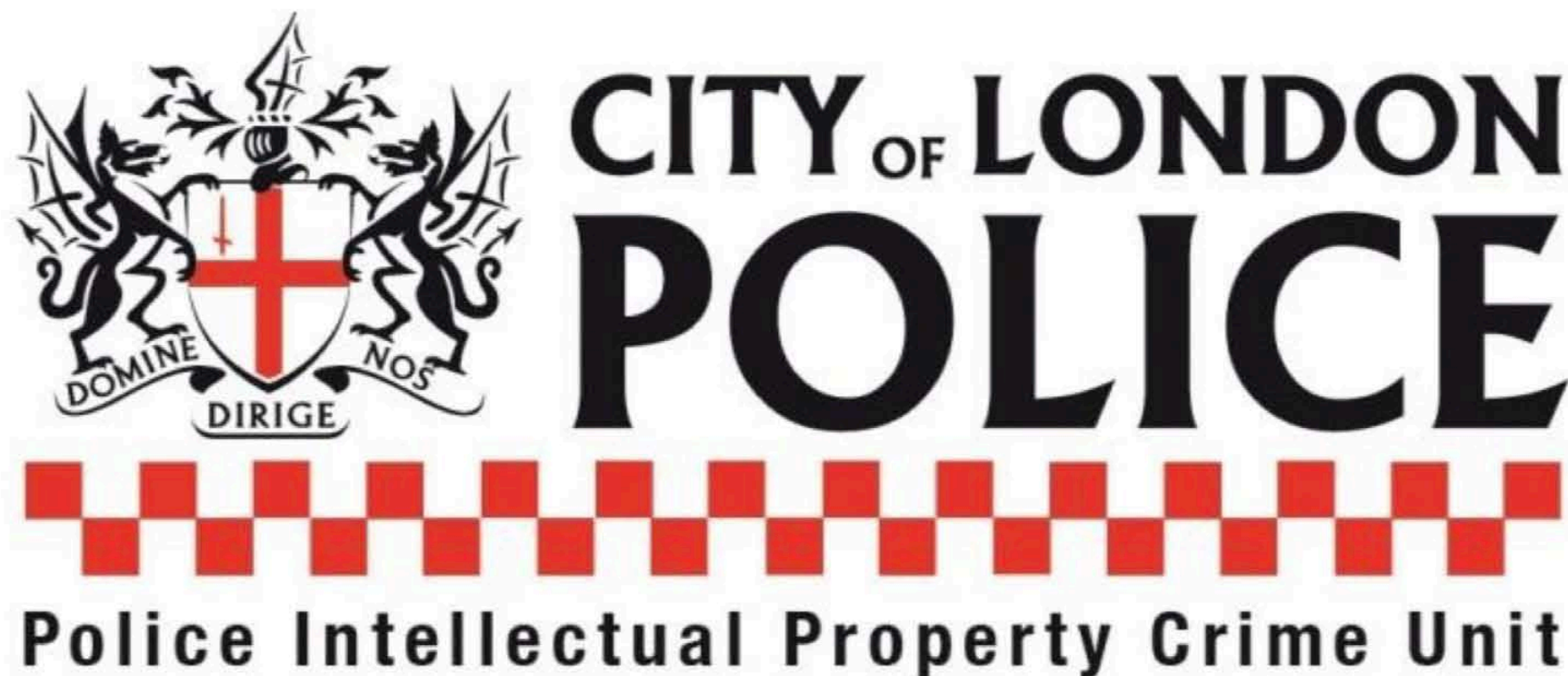
We work at the heart of the internet infrastructure, running a world class registry, deploying sophisticated analytics to tackle cyber threats and finding new ways to connect people and devices. We invest our profits in ideas and projects that help build a vibrant digital future.



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APPLICATION FOR CLOSURE OF A DOMAIN NAME(S) USED IN CRIME



To whom it may concern a XXX/ Nominet

08/05/2017

Operation Ashiko

In connection with our criminal investigation into the supply of counterfeit goods, we hereby confirm that, the Website/Domain Name(s) are being be used to undertake criminal activities.
(Namely)



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Operation Ashiko

In connection with our criminal investigation into the supply of counterfeit goods, we hereby confirm that, the Website/Domain Name(s) are being be used to undertake criminal activities. (Namely)

Section 2(1) of the Fraud Act 2006

Section 92(1) of the Trade Marks Act 1994

By allowing the domain name to resolve, you are facilitating serious crime. We therefore request **XXX** investigate these domain name(s) for breach of your terms and conditions and, if a breach is found, take steps to prevent the domain name(s) from being used for a minimum period of 12 months (or the expiry of the domain name(s) if sooner).

In the event that **XXX** fails to take action within 48 hours of receipt of this request, we request Nominet investigate these domain name(s) for breach of their terms and conditions and, if a breach is found, take steps to prevent the domain name(s) from being used for a minimum period of 12 months (or the expiry of the domain name(s) if sooner).



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Domain suspensions at Nominet by organisation and year			
Organisation	2015 ^[12]	2016 ^[9]	2017 ^[13]
DEFRA Veterinary Medicines Directorate	0	0	1
Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit	0	1	0
Fraud and Linked Crime Online (FALCON) (Metropolitan Police)	8	8	1
National Crime Agency (incl Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre?)	1	7	3
Financial Conduct Authority	0	1	0
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	149	45	99
National Trading Standards	17	119	131
National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (City of London Police)	104	251	2,781
Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (City of London Police)	3,610	7,167	13,616
General statistics			
Suspensions reversed	5	13	15
Suspensions not actioned	16	77	32
Total Suspensions	3,889	8,049	16,632

ISLAND
WATCHES

Replica

Search here...

Q

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HOME

ALL BRANDS ▾

ROLEX

BREITLING

PANERAI

CARTIER

BLOG

CONTACT US

Shop

Home / Shop / Products tagged “Men”

Product Categories

Rolex (82)

Breitling (32)

Panerai (18)

Tag Heuer (36)

IWC (32)

Omega (113)

Hublot (12)

Cartier (20)

Featured Products

Cartier Tank
Americaine
W2609156 Rose
Gold

229\$

Men

Showing 1–24 of 298 results | View All

Default sorting

Filters:

FILTER BY PRICE

DIAL COLOR

DIAL SIZE

GENDER

BAND

SALE!

Antoine De Saint
Exupery IW387806

305\$ 229\$

SALE!

Big Pilot Top Gun
IW501901

290\$ 218\$

SALE!

Black Breitling
Avenger Seawolf
A73390

290\$ 218\$

ches.is/shop/breitling/black-breitling-avenger-seawolf-a73390-replica/



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Safari Can't Find the Server

Safari can't open the page "replicaswatches.org.uk" because Safari can't find the server "replicaswatches.org.uk".



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WARNING: Website Shut Down!

The online store that formerly used this domain has been disabled, pursuant to a U.S. federal court order, for the sale of products bearing counterfeit trademarks.

To purchase authentic products,

[Visit UGG.com](#)

Control of this domain has been transferred to Deckers Outdoor Corporation, owner of the UGG trademark for violation of federal trademark and counterfeiting laws. Deckers took this action to protect the UGG brand and consumers from unknowingly purchasing counterfeit products.

Refund Information

We recommend that you contact your payment provider to obtain a refund.

Method of Payment:

[Learn More](#)



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Suspensions or seizures?

PIPCU have opted for suspensions, but this means:

- No transparency over what is removed
- Victims of fraud, recipients of dangerous goods get no warning
- Police cannot gather evidence of crime



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Legal accountability

PIPCU etc ask for the suspension, but Nominet are liable for it.

PIPCU / requesters review complaints.

Nobody reviews PIPCU or anyone else's work.



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Copyright and TM injunctions

25 injunctions covering around 125 websites

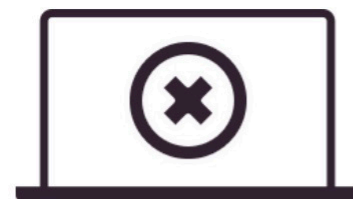
Around 3500 (?) domains blocked
(proxies and alternative domains)

List is not public



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Virgin Media has received an order from the High Court requiring us to prevent access to this site. For more information about the order and your rights, please click the relevant link below.

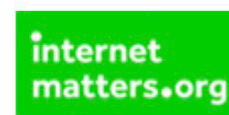
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Copyright and TM injunctions

- Very hard to work out who to complain to
- Very hard to find mistakes
- Very difficult to locate the paperwork and judgments
- Overlapping injunctions against the same websites



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Conclusion

- Digital Charter, wants to incentivise takedowns
- Fines if not done speedily
- Will mean more mistakes and incorrect censorship



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Conclusion

- Censorship does not solve crime: it merely “disrupts”
- Nobody gets punished



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Conclusion

- Censorship will take place; always with us
- Censorship must be transparent
- Censors must offer redress when mistakes are made
- Censors must be accountable



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Conclusion

- Victims of crime need transparency
- Natural justice says you must be told when you are breaking the law
- People brought into terrorist circles are victims too



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Conclusion

The UK does not apply basic standards of transparency and accountability for Internet censorship.