

Privacy International

Dear Dr. Richard Tynan,

Thank you very much for your letter. As ICT products and services take on an increasingly important role in society, stakeholder awareness surrounding the possible risks that misuse of ICT poses to human rights is also growing. The issues you raise in your letter are important for the ICT sector as a whole.

As you pointed out Ericsson continues to support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact as well as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, unanimously endorsed in June 2011 by the UN Human Rights Council. Several initiatives have emerged to provide more detailed sector-specific guidance on meeting these principles and Ericsson is a member of several of them, such as the Working Group on Human Rights of the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI). Ericsson recently also published a report on ICT and Human Rights – An ecosystem approach (http://www.ericsson.com/news/130522-ict-and-human-rights_244129228_c) as a way forward in the discussion.

However, several of your questions relate to the handset. Ericsson no longer has a handset business, and therefore we do not have information on detailed design and circuitry solutions. Because this may vary between different models and also change over time I suggest that you contact any company developing or selling handsets for more detailed information.

In general we can say that when a mobile phone is turned off it does not transmit any signals or identify itself. The only electronics normally remaining in operation are the crystal that keeps track of time and some functionality sensing on-button and charger connection. The modem (the cellular communication part) cannot turn on by itself. It is not powered in off-state. Power and clock distribution to the modem is controlled by the application processor in the mobile phone. The application processor only turns on if the user pushes the on-switch.

There could however be potential risks that once the phone runs there could be means to construct malicious applications that can exploit the phone. But again, we would encourage you to contact the mobile device manufactures for further information.

Thank you for your interest in Ericsson.

Yours sincerely



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