

4.10 PHONE HACKING AND LISTENING DEVICES

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Johnston Press does not allow its newspapers or websites to seek, obtain or publish material which has been acquired by intercepting private or mobile telephone calls and "hacking" into voicemails. Nor should company journalists seek or use material obtained by using clandestine listening devices or hidden cameras, intercepting emails or by removing documents or photographs without authorisation.

Journalists should not breach the Data Protection Act in order to gain information for a story, nor should they engage in misrepresentation or subterfuge in pursuit of information.

Obtaining information by clandestine means is against the law and could result in a prison sentence. It would also result in disciplinary action against the individual or individuals that could lead to dismissal from the company.

Should an editor or newspaper be planning to commission a third party to seek or obtain material on their behalf, then the third party must be made aware of, and agree to abide by, the company's editorial policy. The editor will be held accountable for the actions of a third party in such circumstances.