

Bundesministerium des Innern  
Frau Staatssekretärin Cornelia Rogall-Grothe  
Alt Moabit 101 D  
10559 Berlin

Redmond, Washington, USA, June 14, 2013

Dear Ms. Staatssekretärin,

I refer to your letter of June 11, 2013 and confirm that Microsoft does not participate in a program called "PRISM" or any similar program. Microsoft also learned of the program called PRISM through the media reports you mentioned. This applies equally to Skype.

As you know, Microsoft does comply with applicable law. To that end, Microsoft, in certain circumstances, discloses customer data in response to valid legal orders, including orders served on us pursuant to U.S. national security authorities. Microsoft reviews the legality of the orders before we comply. Even then, we only comply with orders for information about specific users, accounts, or identifiers, and do not disclose data in response to generalized or blanket government requests for customer information.

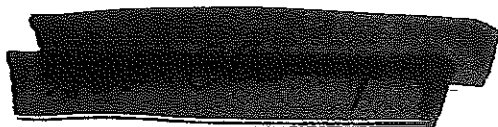
The U.S. Government has since acknowledged that PRISM is a software program designed to manage data that electronic communications service providers disclose in response to valid legal orders issued pursuant to Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Microsoft is legally prohibited from discussing the details of any such an orders.

I would like to refer you to the Transparency Report that Microsoft published on March 21, 2013. In this report we published the number of law enforcement requests and our principles for providing data: (<http://www.microsoft.com/de-de/politik/artikel/behoerdliche-anfragenzu-nutzerdaten.aspx>). In publishing this information, we went as far as we are legally permitted. We have also stated publicly that we would welcome action by governments, including the U.S. Government, to allow us to disclose information about all government demands for customer information, including those issued pursuant to national security authorities.

Again, like every company, we are obligated to comply with valid legal orders from governments. We respect and appreciate the role that governments play in protecting the public from harm. Just as we respect the role government plays, we respect the privacy rights of our users, and take steps to protect their privacy by ensuring we only disclose their information in response to valid legal orders and that we only disclose the data governments are entitled to obtain.

If you require further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Scott Charney

Corporate Vice-President, Microsoft Trustworthy Computing