

Dear Sirs

I have read through the 'Proposed Legislative Framework for the Control of E-mail Spam' and feels that as a citizen, I is necessary that I voice out my concerns on the policy of *opt-out regime*.

As of now I receive about 50 unsolicited emails every day. Not all junk emails provide option to unsubscribe but even when the option is available, it doesn't guarantee termination of unsolicited email. In fact it sometimes act as a confirmation to the validity of the email address for more spam!

I do not believe the practice of opt-out regime is the way to go. Marketers should be required to get prior consent BEFORE they send any unsolicited materials. The requirement to ask for consent, I believe, should be the way to go, similar to regulations in Australia and the UK (<http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1104-5219707.html>).

To enforce an opt-out regime policy is equivalent to the intruding someone's privacy and then apologise after it has already happend. Intrusion of privacy is an area I thought MDA has always tried to enforce quite effectively, but with this new policy, it may mean the demise of privacy or the liberalisation of policies on privacy intrusion, and this may lead to other problems in the future. I understand the need to give businesses greater flexibility, but to do this means to deem citizens as a little less important than businesses.

It is probable that not many feedback on this subject may have reached iDA from the public, and it is for this reason that I am writing to provide the views that I believe many Internet users feel. The silence from the public does not really mean acceptance. It is because not many people are aware of this new framework, as not much have been said in the news or the general media. My suggestion therefore is to hold public forums and media publicity on this matter as it is critical and important to many and iDA should not right away make any decision after the given dateline - 26 July 2004 prior to consensus vote of general public is made.

Regards
EDMOND NG