

DR. DAITHÍ MAC SÍTHIGH (NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY)  
[DAITHI.MACCSITHIGH@NEWCASTLE.AC.UK](mailto:DAITHI.MACCSITHIGH@NEWCASTLE.AC.UK) / @MACCSITHIGH

# COMPUTERS AND THE COALITION

CENTRE FOR LAW & INFORMATION POLICY  
LONDON, 24 FEBRUARY 2015



# The Coalition: our programme for government

# ACTS OF PARLIAMENT



- **Rollback**
- Rebalancing
- Re-regulation
- Projects

# (MANIFESTO/AGREEMENT) ROLLBACK

- Repeal of ID cards legislation (Identity Documents Act 2010)
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (CCTV, DNA, RIPA, FOIA amendments)
- Miscellaneous, e.g. WTA amendments in Enterprise & Regulatory Reform Act
- *Deregulation Bill, s 55* (would repeal ss 17/18 DEA)



## Sorry, this page is not available through Virgin Media

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:

[I'm a Virgin Media home broadband customer](#)  
[I'm a Virgin Media Business customer](#)

Find out more general information:

[I'm a Virgin Media home broadband customer](#)  
[I'm a Virgin Media Business customer](#)



- Rollback
- **Rebalancing**
- Re-regulation
- Projects

# REBALANCING

- Defamation Act 2013
- CDPA amendments through SIs (Hargreaves implementation)
- Privacy and Civil Liberties Board (s 46 Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 - enabling provision)

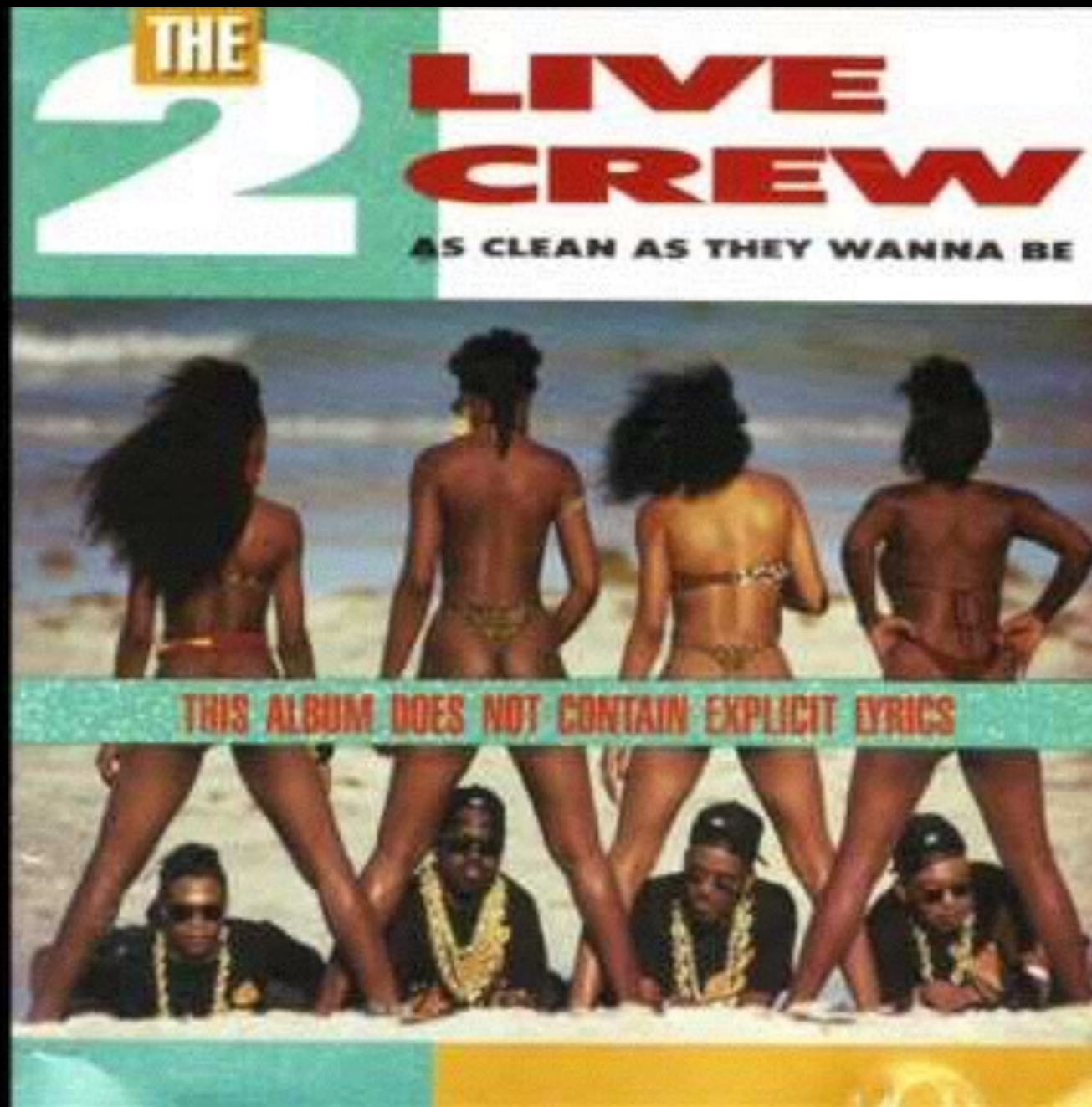


# DEFAMATION ACT 2013



'Trapped in the closet'  
(*South Park* S9E12, SPDS 2005)

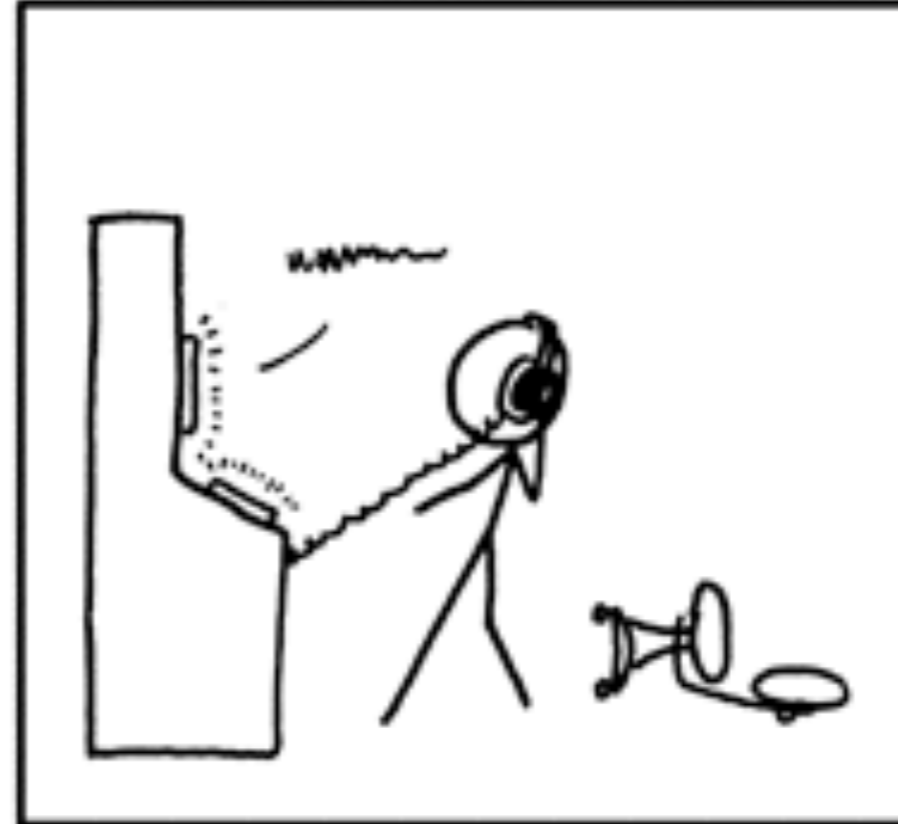
# AMENDMENTS TO COPYRIGHT DESIGNS & PATENTS ACT 1998 (BY SI)



2 Live Crew, *As Clean As They Wanna Be* (Luke Records, 1989)

# PRIVACY & CIVIL LIBERTIES BOARD

NOW AND THEN, I ANNOUNCE "I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING" TO EMPTY ROOMS.



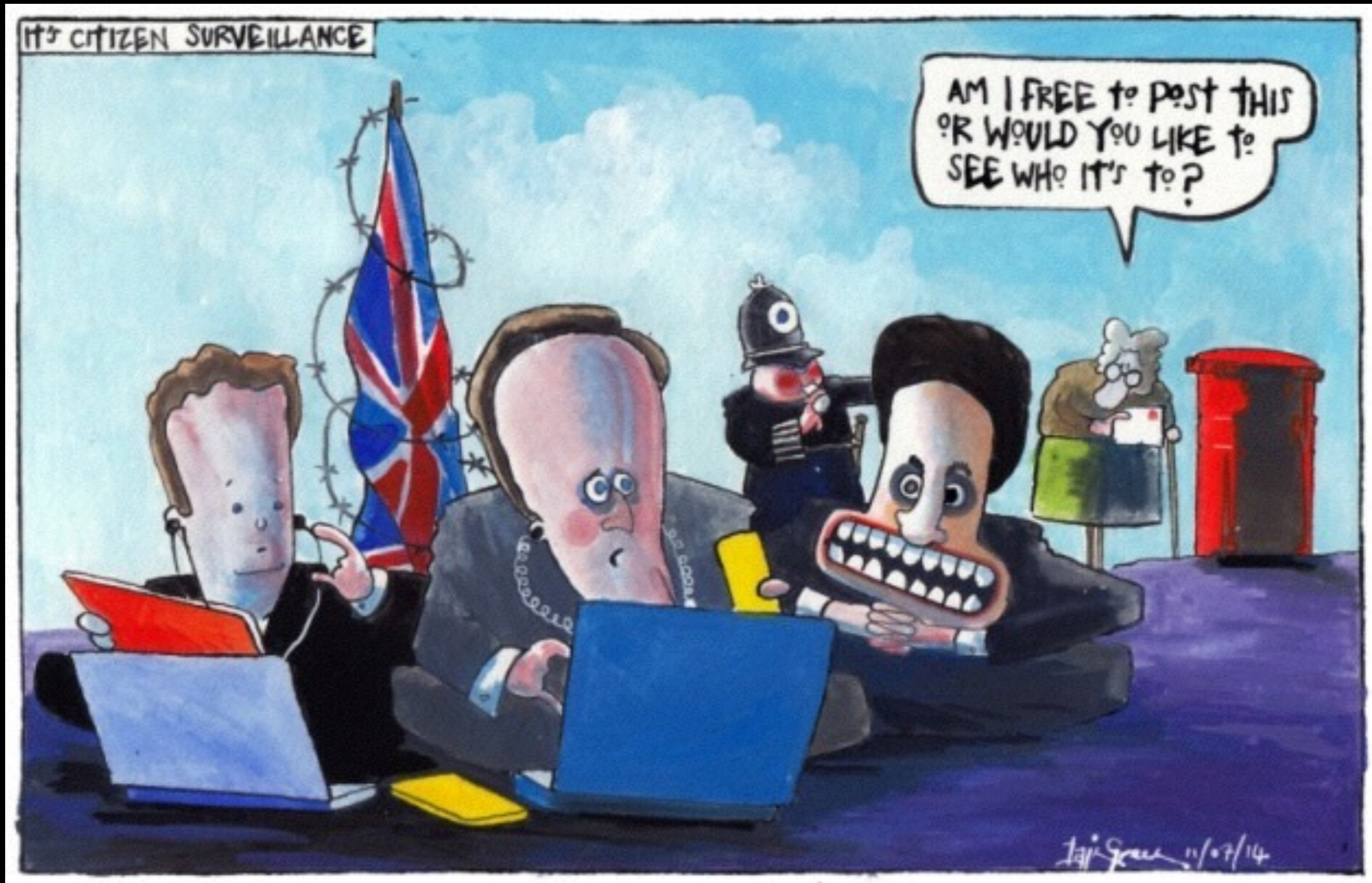
IF I'M WRONG, NO ONE KNOWS.  
AND IF I'M RIGHT, MAYBE I JUST FREAKED  
THE HELL OUT OF SOME SECRET ORGANIZATION.

- Rollback
- Rebalancing
- **Re-regulation**
- Projects

# (INTERNET) RE-REGULATION

- Data Retention & Investigatory Powers Act 2014 (as amended by s 21 CTSA 2015 re MAC addresses)
- AVMS Regulations 2014
- Gambling (Licensing & Advertising) Act 2014
- Criminal Justice & Courts Act 2015
  - Images of sexual assault
  - "Revenge pornography"

# DATA RETENTION & INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2014



# AVMS REGULATIONS 2014

The Most Topical FRINGE Of All!  
COME AND SEE  
[Short Extracts Only!]  
HOW BAD ARE EVEN LEGAL

**'VIDEO  
NASTIES'**

**MARY  
WHITEHOUSE**

ON

**HOW BEST TO CONTROL THEM**  
- Will Mr Graham Bright's Bill Do The Trick?

'FRINGE MEETINGS'  
in  
The Prince William Suite, Clifton Hotel,  
Talbot Square, Blackpool.

11th, 12th, 13th, October 12.45 p.m. and 5.45 p.m.

*Lunch/Sandwiches Available At The Hotel*

Turn left out of the WINTER GARDENS and the  
CLIFTON HOTEL is 5 minutes walk

# GAMBLING (LICENSING & ADVERTISING) ACT 2014





# CRIMINAL JUSTICE & COURTS ACT 2015



- Rollback
- Rebalancing
- Re-regulation
- **Projects**

# BIG PROJECTS

- Data (e.g. White Paper 2012; Health & Social Care Act 2012; PFA; [data.gov.uk](http://data.gov.uk))
- Jurors (Law Commission #340 (2013); CJ&C Act 2015 s 69ff)
- Consumer law (*Consumer Rights Bill* - beyond transposition of Consumer Rights Directive, already done)
- Creative industries tax reform (FA 2013 for TV, animation, games; FA 2014 for theatre)
- Local media: cross-ownership (CA amendments by SI 2011); new form of licensing (CA via SIs 2012)
- Leveson?

# OPEN DATA



# JURIES (& COURT REPORTING)



Feliks Topolski, *Trial by jury* (1949); Government Art Collection (image BBC/Public Catalogue Foundation)

# CONSUMER LAW & DIGITAL CONTENT



# CREATIVE INDUSTRY TAX RELIEF



# LOCAL TELEVISION





# LEVESON / ROYAL CHARTER

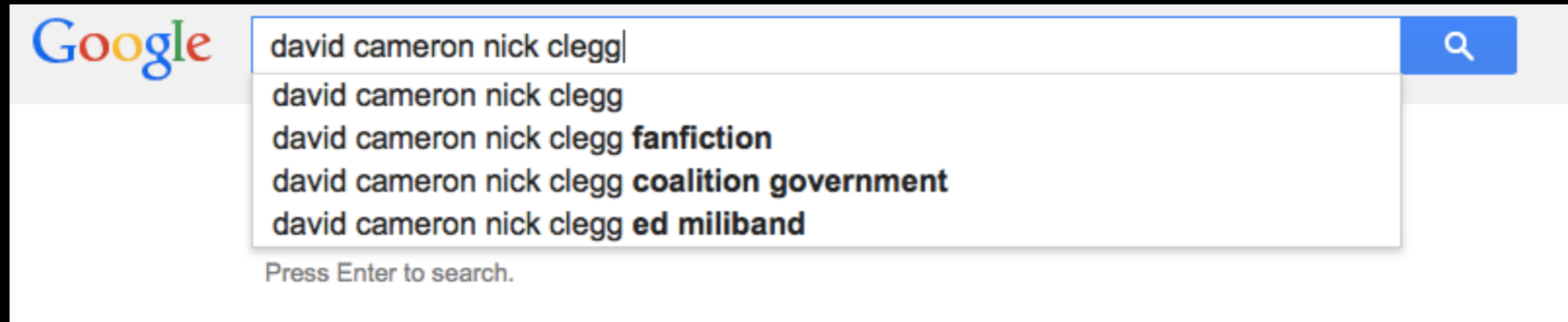


*"Perhaps you could tell us how you know if we've been bad or good?"*

Royston Robertson

(Reader's Digest, December 2011)

# OBSERVATIONS



- No major legislative project in this field (although open data as a project could be considered as information policy)
- Initial libertarian urgency of Coalition agreement vs late enthusiasm for Internet (re)regulation
- Impact on different industries e.g. Defamation Act, limited Leveson implementation, tax relief, copyright rebalancing

# WHAT NEXT?

- Data and information
  - EU changes
  - 'Nuisance calls' consultation (closed 12/2014)
  - Law Commission data sharing project (scoping report published)
  - Long-term position of DRIP
  - Future of FOIA (Justice Committee post-legislative report 2012)
- Infrastructure
  - Implementation of LC Electronic Communications Code report (#336, 2013; was to be in *Infrastructure Bill* but separate consultation now underway)
- Sharing economy (Woskow Review, November 2014)
- Communications Act?

