

**Media Contact:**

Will Wiquist  
will.wiquist@fcc.gov

**For Immediate Release**

**FCC AND UK ICO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS ISSUES INVOLVING PRIVACY, DATA PROTECTION, AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES-RELATED FRAUD**

***New MOU Furthers a Global, Coordinated Approach to Addressing Critical Consumer Protection Issues***

LONDON, United Kingdom, February 29, 2024—The Federal Communications Commission and the Information Commissioner’s Office of the United Kingdom announced a formal partnership to cooperate on enforcement matters related to unlawful robocalls and robotexts as well as efforts to protect consumers’ privacy and sensitive data. Both agencies also serve as Executive Members of the global Unsolicited Communications Enforcement Network (UCENet). This Memorandum of Understanding, signed by FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and UK Information Commissioner John Edwards, will strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the agencies.

“Protecting consumers’ privacy and defending them against robocall and text scams is a top priority for the Commission,” **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. “Our efforts are fortified through strategic partnerships like these.”

“In a world where personal information is more valuable than ever before, protecting people’s privacy is critical,” **said UK Information Commissioner Edwards**. “This is a global issue and I’m pleased that this MoU will allow for greater collaboration between the ICO and FCC, as both of our organisations continue efforts to safeguard people from harms caused by the misuse of their data.”

This MOU is the first of its kind, particularly with respect to the agencies’ shared priorities to address risks arising from the misuse of our communications networks, the exploitation of private and sensitive data, and continued threats posed by cybercriminals and adversaries. Many of the matters the agencies handle touch on cross-border issues, and this strategic partnership will allow the FCC and ICO to carry out their missions more efficiently and effectively.

The new partnership recognizes that there is an increased need for cooperation among international partners to protect consumer privacy and sensitive data because consumers are sharing vast amounts of personal information with telecommunications carriers; these carriers store and transmit this information across complex networks that expand beyond traditional nation-state borders. This comes after the FCC earlier this month took steps to make unwanted robocalls made with AI-generated voices illegal under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

The FCC and ICO further seek to advance an international approach to combatting unsolicited commercial electronic messaging and telemarketing, scam telephone calls and short message service, unlawful automated or pre-recorded voice message telephone calls and text messages and

the unlawful use of inaccurate caller identification, and the threats that they pose to consumers and their confidence in critical commercial applications using the communications network.

This partnership is a critical achievement for the [FCC's Privacy and Data Protection Task Force](#) which Chairwoman Rosenworcel established and tasked with leading the agency's work on privacy and data protection issues subject to the Commission's authority under the Communications Act. The Task Force coordinates across the agency on the rulemaking, enforcement, and public awareness needs regarding privacy and data protection activities, including threats like SIM swapping scams, port-out fraud, and data breaches, which can increase the risks posed by these scams by exposing consumers' information, which can make it easier for scammers to steal consumers cell phone accounts.

###

**Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)**

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*