

# Russian Telecoms Are Selling Users' Location Data to Authorities

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**Moskva News Agency**

Russia's top telecom operators are selling the location data of their clients for millions of dollars to Moscow's City Hall, the *Vedomosti* business daily has reported.

The Russian capital already fields one of the world's largest facial-recognition systems, with 174,000 surveillance cameras expected to enter into operation this year. Meanwhile, new anti-terror legislation that entered into force last summer requires Russia's top telecoms to store users' communications for six months.

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Authorities in Moscow are using the SIM card data that tracks cellphone users' day-to-day movements on public transport, *Vedomosti* [reported](#) Monday.

Moscow's City Hall spent 101.8 million rubles (\$1.5 million) in 2018 and 516 million rubles

overall since 2015 on the geospatial data, according to procurement data cited by the daily.

Nikolai Legkodimov, a Russian partner at the KPMG global auditor, warns that local authorities could misuse the big data for political campaigning or ad services.

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