

Uber Gives 12 Million Users' Data to US Government Agencies

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April 13, 2016

Though it is Uber's first transparency report, releasing such data has become standard practice at top-flight tech companies in response to increased concerns about government surveillance.

Yes, it's true: Uber just released a transparency report describing what information USA law enforcement agencies and regulators asked them for in the second half of 2015. In those cases, *Uber* deemed the request went beyond what was legally required or the information was personally or commercially sensitive. *Uber said* Tuesday hopes to provide similar analysis of its cooperation with regulators and law enforcement outside the United States, as well.

Uber also detailed its disclosures to regulators, saying in a statement that regulators often "send blanket requests without explaining why the information is needed, or how it will be used".

In most cases, law enforcement requests that were received related to fraud investigations or the use of stolen credit cards, the report said. But in most cases, *Uber* pushed back against the agencies requesting the data.

Uber also breaks the data down into type of request, for example if it's a subpoena, search warrant, court order, or "*emergency*". The company says it "*fully complied*" with nearly 32 percent of those requests, "*partially complied*" with over 52 percent, and either came up with no information or the request was withdrawn by law enforcement with 15 percent.

The vast majority of this was shared with U.S. regulators such as the California Public Utilities Commission.

As well, *Uber* received a total of 34 requests from airport authorities, and it complied with 100% of them.

The report specifically highlights information handed over between July and December of past year and during that period, *Uber* has confirmed that over **12 million** pieces of information were provided on request.

In 30 "*emergency*" situations, in which there was "an imminent threat of harm to a rider or driver", *Uber* has released information to law enforcement without going through the legal process. "It's why *Uber frequently tries to narrow the scope of these demands, though our efforts are typically rebuffed*".

"There seems to be much more sharing of personal data for a less important goal, which raises privacy flags for me", Jim Harper, senior fellow at the libertarian think tank Cato Institute, tells [the Verge](#).