

# EFF and Open Rights Group Defend the Right to Publish Open Source Software to the UK Government

By *Roy Schestowitz*

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EFF and Open Rights Group today submitted formal comments to the British Treasury, urging restraint in applying anti-money-laundering regulations to the publication of open-source software.

The UK government sought public feedback on proposals to update its financial regulations pertaining to money laundering and terrorism in alignment with a larger European directive. The consultation asked for feedback on applying onerous customer due diligence regulations to the cryptocurrency space as well as what approach the government should take in addressing "privacy coins" like Zcash and Monero. Most worrisome, the government also asked "whether the publication of open-source software should be subject to [customer due diligence] requirements."

We've seen these kind of attacks on the publication of open source software before, in fights dating back to the 90s, when the Clinton administration attempted to require that anyone merely publishing cryptography source code obtain a government-issued license as an arms dealer. Attempting to force today's open-source software publishers to follow financial regulations designed to go after those engaged in money laundering is equally obtuse.

[4]

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**Links:**

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/72>

[2] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/59>

[3] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/106>

[4] <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2019/06/eff-and-open-rights-group-defend-right-publish-open-source-software-uk-government>