

News Item

Facebook Allegedly Offered Advertisers Special Access to Users Data and Activities, According to Documents Released by British Lawmakers | The Washington Post

By Craig Timberg ,Elizabeth Dwoskin, and Tony Romm December 5, 2018

A key British lawmaker alleged Wednesday that Facebook maintained "whitelisting agreements" that gave select companies preferential access to valuable user data, echoing a key claim from an app developer that has been embroiled in a lawsuit with the social network in a California court.

Damian Collins, chairman of a British parliamentary committee that has led a wide-ranging investigation into Facebook and its dealings with political consultancy Cambridge Analytica, released a <u>summary of findings</u> along with more than 200 pages of documents Wednesday. Facebook has denied that it offered preferential access to data for major advertisers, as the app developer, Six4Three, has alleged in its suit.

Collins released a limited trove of documents that long have been sealed in a California court, along with a summary saying, "Facebook have clearly entered into whitelisting agreements with certain companies, which meant that after the platform changes in 2014/15 they maintained full access to friends data. It is not clear that there was any user consent for this, nor how Facebook decided which companies should be whitelisted or not."

Source: Facebook allegedly offered advertisers special access to users data and activities, according to documents released by British lawmakers – The Washington Post