Gmail **Heidi Swart <swart.heidi@gmail.com>**

RE: MEDIA Questions from the Daily Maverick

Fincham, Lexi, Vodacom South Africa <Lexi.Fincham@vodacom.co.za> Fri, May 22, 2020 at 11:52 AM
To: Heidi Swart <swart.heidi@gmail.com>
Cc: "Kennedy, Byron, Vodacom South Africa" <Byron.Kennedy@vodacom.co.za>

Hi Heidi

Thanks for your query. Please see Vodacom's response below, attributable to "a Vodacom spokesperson" please and not me personally.

All the best

Lexi

In the light of the fact that South Africa does not have an equivalent to the UK's HCSEC, and given that Huawei equipment is used in core and non-core sections of South Africa's mobile networks, how can Vodacom assure the South African public that its networks (including current and future 5G networks) are not at an increased risk because of Huawei equipment?

We conduct thorough security assessments to ensure that the security of the platforms we deploy meets our rigorous security requirements.

Does Vodacom work with the State Security Agency (SSA) to mitigate the risks of Huawei's equipment? If so, could you please provide details of how this is done (for instance: Does it take place on Vodacom's premises, or at a separate premises? Does Vodacom invest any money in such efforts? Do you have joint cyber security teams with the SSA?)

Vodacom has not received a request from the SSA to cooperate on an initiative like this. As in all countries we are highly engaged with governments on all security matters and to ensure network resilience.

Is Vodacom at all planning on lobbying Huawei to establish an independent, transparent evaluation centre similar to the UK's HCSEC in South Africa? If so, is it possible to provide any detail, such as when it will be opened, or how it will be funded? If not, can you provide reasons?

Vodacom has not lobbied Huawei to establish an independent evaluation centre in South Africa. HCSEC was set up to provide assurance to UK government and telco operators through detailed analysis and testing of Huawei equipment. As a global operator, Vodafone defines its security requirements as part of any tendering process for equipment and works closely with host governments to ensure that our network security is compliant with any national requirements. This is the case in South Africa.

Do you use Huawei-manufactured interception equipment? If so, how do you mediate associated risks? Do you use ZTE - manufactured lawful interception equipment? If so, how do you mediate associated risks? If you use neither of these brands, which brand do you use?

We do not comment on specific vendors or components in the network. We comply with the laws in all the countries we operate in and you can read about this in the Digital Rights and Freedoms section at

https://www.vodafone.com/our-purpose/operating-responsibly/human-rights/digital-rights-and-freedoms.

From: Heidi Swart <swart.heidi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 16:46
To: Fincham, Lexi, Vodacom South Africa <Lexi.Fincham@vodacom.co.za>
Subject: Re: MEDIA Questions from the DAILY MAVERICK: HUAWEI CYBER SECURITY

Yes, that's absolutely fine. Let me know if you need more time. The better the responses, the better the article.

Best,

Heidi

On Wed, May 20, 2020 at 4:40 PM Fincham, Lexi, Vodacom South Africa <Lexi.Fincham@vodacom.co.za> wrote:

> Thanks Heidi – if it's still okay to send to you by Friday cob with these additional questions, we will do.
>
> Text
>
> Best regards
>
> Lexi
>
> **From:** Heidi Swart <swart.heidi@gmail.com>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 16:37
> **To:** Fincham, Lexi, Vodacom South Africa <Lexi.Fincham@vodacom.co.za>
> **Subject:** Re: MEDIA Questions from the DAILY MAVERICK: HUAWEI CYBER SECURITY
>
>
>
> Hi Lexi,
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> I've just spoken to my editor, and we've agreed to publish the responses from network operators in full. I just got a reply from Telkom, and it's quite detailed, and we've decide we'd lose a lot of valuable input if we edited bits and pieces and worked it into the main article. I don't know if that will change how you respond, but I'm letting you know just in case it helps. Also, if you need more time to fashion your response, that's also fine. I'd rather get it right and give the reader high quality information, so just let me know if the deadline is too tight still.