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Smartphones and watches “banned from Cabinet over hacking concerns”

Smartwatches have reportedly been banned in meetings amid concerns Russian hackers could infiltrate the devices

Cabinet ministers in the UK are banned from wearing Apple Watches and similar devices during meetings amid concerns they could be hacked.

- 5 Ministers have reportedly been told they cannot wear the smartwatches in Cabinet meetings after concerns they could be hacked by Russian spies and used as listening devices. However, this is a Cabinet-wide policy and isn't specific to Apple devices; it relates to any smart product that is vulnerable to attack.

- 10 A source told The Telegraph: “The Russians are trying to hack everything” and made specific mention to the Watch, but mobiles phones have also been barred from the Cabinet rooms because of similar concerns.

- 15 The concerns about security threats from Russia are not unfounded. Last week, the Director of National Intelligence and Department of Homeland Security in the US officially blamed Russia for stealing and publishing archived emails from the Democratic National Committee earlier this year. WikiLeaks published the data dump on its website in July.

Julian Assange has also revealed that the website will be publishing more leaks over the coming weeks relating to the US presidential election.

Amelia Heathman, *Wired*, October 10, 2016.

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