

How can we find Â£1.8 billion to spy on Facebook but ...

Published: January 13, 2026, 6:39 am

The [Guardian has reported](#):

The government's "online snooping" scheme to track email, Facebook, Twitter and other web use comes with an official pricetag of at least £1.8bn and an official warning that the figure may well prove to be an underestimate, the Home Office has revealed.

In [2008-09 the total cost of the Education Maintenance Allowance to ensure all young people could afford a sixth form education was just over £500 million.](#)

The government claims it cannot afford to pay for young people to go to school.

But apparently it can find three times as much to snoop on their use of Facebook.

As an example of misplaced priorities this has to be high on the Tory list.

And it shames them.