

Russian Church concerned about possibility of illegal use of personal data



The Russian Orthodox Church has raised a question of legality of collecting and using personal data of citizens.

“I can say that, at least among Orthodox believers, there are certain concerns about the development of new digital technologies, and we all see this concern, and we do not intend to ignore it, because we cannot say that there is no problem if, according to many of our brethren, there is a problem,” deputy head of the Synodal Department for Church, Society and Media Relations Vakhtang Kipshidze said at a Thursday press conference in Moscow.

The Church official said that the problem of using personal data and digitalization deserves a very deep study.

“Freedom is a very great value for us, and this freedom implies, among other things, a certain inviolability of our private and family life. If any data is collected, then the collection of this data should be legal and aimed at ensuring security, preventing crimes or other clear and understandable goals,” Kipshidze said.

If data is collected for unclear purposes, he added, mentioning that big data is a

material for business, including advertising, services, economic risk assessment and other purposes, in this case, the Church official believes, “we must clearly understand how our data is used, what it is used for and by whom.”

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