# Liberal Democrat MP accuses Apple and Google of profiting from smartphone theft amid rising regulatory scrutiny



A Liberal Democrat MP has launched a scathing attack on tech giants Apple and Google, accusing them of profiting from rampant smartphone theft while sidestepping responsibility for their actions. Martin Wrigley, a member of the UK parliament's technology committee, made these serious allegations during a recent committee session where representatives from both firms were present. "Apple and Google are raking in profits while failing to address the theft crisis," Wrigley asserted, underscoring the urgent need for accountability in an era when consumers deserve protection from corporate negligence.

This accusation against these tech behemoths is part of a growing backlash, as they continue to evade necessary reforms and regulatory scrutiny. The European Commission has previously accused both companies of violating the EU's Digital Markets Act, aimed at promoting fair competition. Allegations have emerged that Google prioritises its own services in search results and restricts developers from exploring alternative payment options on Google Play, while Apple has faced severe criticism for maintaining a closed ecosystem that shuts out competition entirely.

In a stark parallel, Apple is currently embroiled in legal woes in the United States, with the Department of Justice alleging it has monopolised the smartphone market. This includes accusations of extortionate pricing for its iPhones and exorbitant fees imposed on business partners, ultimately driving up costs for everyday consumers. Apple's insistence on vigorously defending itself reveals a troubling trend where corporate giants resist accountability, inviting further scrutiny from those they claim to serve.

The impact of these serious allegations extends far beyond corporate rivalry; victims of stolen iPhones are caught in a web of corporate indifference. With Apple's security measures inadvertently locking users out of their accounts, thieves have exploited vulnerabilities, changing Apple ID passwords and creating recovery keys that thwart rightful owners from accessing their data. A current court case in California epitomises the urgency of this issue, with plaintiffs suing Apple for damages and access to their stolen personal information.

In the UK, the Competition and Markets Authority has ramped up its investigations into Apple and Google, scrutinising their dominance in mobile ecosystems. Regulators are keen to determine if the operational practices and app distribution strategies employed by these companies not only restrict competition but also undermine the market itself, raising the alarm for truly viable alternatives.

As tensions between regulators and these tech giants escalate, Wrigley’s statements are a clarion call for resistance against corporate complacency. The need for substantial reforms in the digital marketplace has never been clearer. It is crucial that the public remains vigilant and demands accountability from companies that appear more focused on profit margins than consumer welfare. The upcoming months will be pivotal as scrutiny intensifies and the pressure mounts on these industry titans to cease their evasive tactics.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2025/jun/03/mp-accuses-apple-and-google-of-profiting-from-stolen-phones-video> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2025/jun/03/mp-accuses-apple-and-google-of-profiting-from-stolen-phones-video> - Martin Wrigley, a Liberal Democrat member of the UK parliament's technology committee, has accused Apple and Google of profiting from phone-snatching operations. During a committee session, Wrigley stated that both companies continue to profit and sell more phones because these devices are not removed from the system. Representatives from Apple and Google were present during the committee meeting.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/mar/19/eu-google-apple-trump-digital-markets-act> - The European Commission has accused Google and Apple of breaching the EU's Digital Markets Act, potentially leading to significant fines. The Commission alleges that Google's search engine prioritises its own services over competitors, and that Google Play restricts developers from directing consumers to alternative channels. Apple is also under scrutiny for not making its operating systems compatible with devices from other manufacturers. Both companies have expressed concerns over the regulations.
4. <https://www.businessinsurance.com/antitrust-lawsuit-accuses-apple-of-monopolizing-smartphone-markets/> - The U.S. Department of Justice, along with 15 states, has filed a lawsuit against Apple, alleging the company has monopolised the smartphone market, harming smaller competitors and increasing prices. The lawsuit claims that Apple charges premium prices for iPhones and imposes fees on various business partners, including software developers and credit card companies, which ultimately raise consumer prices and boost Apple's profits. Apple has denied the allegations and intends to vigorously defend itself.
5. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2025/04/20/apple-stolen-iphone-lawsuit-theft/> - Victims of stolen iPhones are seeking legal recourse to recover their data, as Apple’s security measures can inadvertently lock users out of their accounts. Thieves can change Apple ID passwords and create recovery keys, making it difficult for owners to regain access to their data. A California court case is underway, with plaintiffs suing Apple for access to their data and damages. Apple has stated it takes such incidents seriously but did not comment on the specific case.
6. <https://www.usnews.com/news/technology/articles/2025-01-23/uk-watchdog-targets-apple-google-mobile-ecosystems-with-new-digital-market-powers> - Britain's competition watchdog has initiated investigations into Google's Android and Apple's iOS ecosystems under new digital market rules. The Competition and Markets Authority is examining whether these mobile operating systems, app stores, and browsers hold a strategic market position that could warrant regulatory intervention. The investigations will assess competition levels and potential barriers to rival products and services, including whether Apple and Google favour their own apps and services.
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2024/03/21/us-accuses-apple-illegal-monopoly-over-smartphone-market/> - The U.S. government has filed a lawsuit against Apple, accusing the company of illegally monopolising the smartphone market. The Justice Department alleges that Apple uses its control over the iPhone app store to 'lock in' customers and developers, preventing competition and maintaining high prices. Apple has vowed to 'vigorously' fight the lawsuit and denies the claims, stating that the case risks government interference in technology development.