

Germany bans children's smart watches with listening app

November 18 2017

German regulators have banned certain types of smartwatches marketed to children, saying the devices have been used to listen in on school classrooms and run afoul of Germany's surveillance restrictions.

The Bundesnetzagentur, or Federal Network Agency, said in a statement issued Friday that watches that would allow parents to "listen unnoticed to a child's environment" constitute an unauthorized transmitting system.

The agency said parents have been using watches marketed to children between the ages of 5 and 12 to monitor teachers.

It didn't name specific brands, but advised schools to be on the lookout for such devices.

The agency also says that if buyers of the products become known to authorities, they will be told to destroy the watches.

The Bundesnetzagentur regulates telecommunications, power and other networks

© 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Germany bans children's smart watches with listening app (2017, November 18)
retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-11-germany-children-smart-app.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.