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They urge her to give the UK an ultimatum: "Back down from this dangerous attack on US cybersecurity, or face serious consequences." While the UK has been a trusted ally, the US government must not permit what is effectively a foreign cyberattack waged through political means", the US politicians wrote.

If the UK does not back down Ms Gabbard should "reevaluate US-UK cybersecurity arrangements and programs as well as US intelligence sharing", they suggest. It applies to all content stored using what Apple calls "Advanced Data Protection" (ADP).

This uses end-to-end encryption, where only the account holder can access the data stored. Apple itself cannot see it. It is an opt-in service, and not all users choose to activate it.