



Government Digital Services aide memoire

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister for Government Digital Services

**Title: Global Digital Ministers Meeting - COVID-19 Contact Tracing
Approaches – 18 June 2020**

Date: 18/06/2020

Key issues

You are attending the Global Digital Ministers Meeting, via teleconference, on Wednesday 18 June 2020 at 8pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss sovereign digital responses to COVID-19, **out of scope**

Action sought

Note the contents of this briefing

Timeframe

18 June 2020

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Direct phone line	After hours phone	Suggested 1 st contact
Sela Finau	Policy Manager, Policy Group	9(2)(a)		✓
Alan Bell	Director Digital Identity Transition	9(2)(a)		

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Purpose


1. This aide memoire provides discussion points and background information ahead of your Global Digital Ministers Meeting on 18 June 2020 at 8pm (NZT).

Background

Global Digital Ministers Meeting – COVID-19 contact tracing approaches

2. You have been invited to attend the *Global meeting of Digital Ministers to discuss COVID-19 digital contact tracing and exposure notification* by the Australian Minister for Government Services, the Hon Stuart Robert.
3. Minister Robert has invited representatives from France, India, Israel, Iceland, Poland, Cyprus, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.
4. The Minister of Health, Hon Dr David Clark, was invited but is unable to attend. The Ministry of Health's feedback has been incorporated into this briefing.
5. Paul James and Ann-Marie Cavanagh will also be in attendance.

Out of scope



COVID-19 Contact Tracing in New Zealand

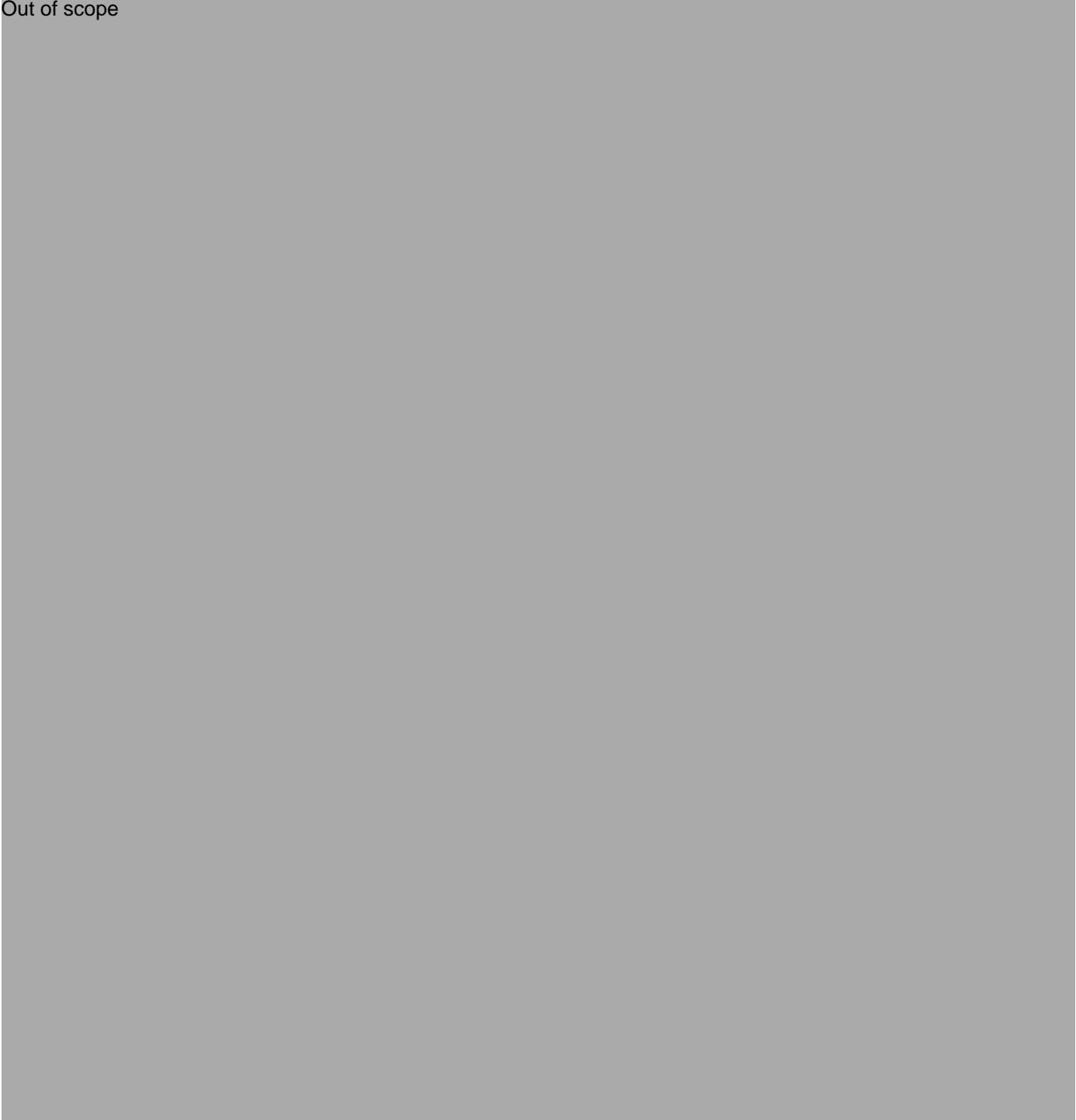
Digital tools are starting to be used to support the COVID-19

11. New Zealand is starting to use a range of digital tools to manage COVID-19 in addition to the National Contact Tracing Solution. This includes using official Quick Response (QR) codes, and integrated data sources as digital infrastructure to help manage COVID-19.
12. On 20 May 2020, the Government launched the NZ COVID Tracer application. As at 8 June 2020, approximately 522,000 people had registered to use the application, providing up to date contact information to aid in tracing if required. The application enables people to maintain an electronic diary to track their movements, with people manually scanning QR codes of localities they attend.
13. Further planned enhancements to the app will address many of the current shortfalls, such as the application not enabling people to record individual interactions like visiting a friend. Creating standards and interoperability capability will enable accredited apps to make a valuable contribution to add value to the manual contact tracing process.

Bluetooth technology could enhance contact tracing but it also has challenges


14. New Zealand is currently investigating Bluetooth solutions, including Bluetooth applications and a Bluetooth-enabled CovidCard. Officials are expected to provide Cabinet with an update on this later this month.
15. The Ministry of Health views Bluetooth as one of a number of technologies that we are using to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic. We see these as support for the process of contact tracing rather than replacing it.
16. The Ministry of Health's view is that at this stage we continue to observe other countries' implementation of Bluetooth solutions to support contact tracing. We will make a decision on the use of this technology in the best interests of New Zealand when we are satisfied that the technology is proven to be of benefit or otherwise.

Out of scope



Appendix A: Suggested talking points

Out of scope



Contact tracing

5. As New Zealand develops and improves our approach to contact tracing we would find considerable value in being kept up-to-date on contact tracing developments in your respective countries.
6. New Zealand is also interested in being kept up-to-date on the uptake of any apps your countries develop. Information about the percentage of users who refuse to share access would also provide valuable insights for us.
7. *Note: You may want to share your perspective on the contact tracing approach being developed by New Zealand.*

Out of scope

