



8 March 2022

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Tēnā koe Maxwell,

OIA2122-0571

Thank you for your email of 10 February 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“...correspondence between the Department of Internal Affairs and any related government agencies, with respect to the alignment of a digital identity and the health records of NZ citizens, using the proposed Digital Identity Trust Framework (currently under Select Committee review...inclusion of any correspondence material which discusses the alignment of any data from My Health Account and/or My COVID Record (overseen by the Ministry of Health) and it's potential integration and use under the Digital Identity Trust Framework”

I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information you have requested does not exist. The Digital Identity Services Trust Framework Bill (the Bill) does not intend to allow for the integration of data from multiple sources into a single location.

The Digital Identity Services Trust Framework (the Trust Framework) will enable New Zealanders to prove their identities online in a private, secure and convenient way, similar to how we currently present our physical drivers licenses or passports to prove who we are. People will be able to inform those that need to know about changes without needing to show documents in-person, for example, when starting a new job, moving schools or enrolling with a new GP.

The Trust Framework will also provide benefits to New Zealand businesses. Businesses will have greater confidence in the information they rely on while saving resources by spending less time handling physical documents.

The Trust Framework has eight principles; these include being people-centred and privacy-enabling. Being people-centred means that people will only have a digital identity if they want to create and use one. Physical identification such as driver licences and passports will remain available for proof of identity for those who do not want to opt-in to the Trust Framework.

We understand New Zealanders want to have control over their information and how it is used. People will retain ownership and control over their data. Any sharing of identity data under the Trust Framework will need that person's permission on a case-by-case basis.

Being privacy-enabling means that organisations may only ask for the minimum amount of data needed for a particular purpose. Collection and use of this data must follow the requirements in the Privacy Act 2020. Recognising New Zealanders' need for privacy, the Trust Framework will not have a central database where data from different sources will or can be connected.

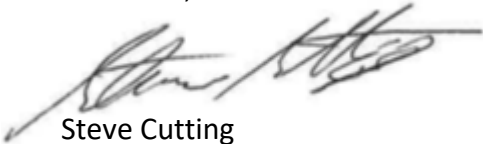
The Trust Framework rules also prohibit the correlation of user data for tracking purposes. The other principles of the Trust Framework can be found at the following link: www.digital.govt.nz/digital-government/programmes-and-projects/digital-identity-programme/trust-framework/trust-framework-principles/.

The Trust Framework will have an accreditation scheme for service providers to demonstrate their suitability and trustworthiness regarding the management of data. Accreditation will also show service providers' commitment to the principles of the Trust Framework.

Public sector entities, such the Ministry of Health, may apply to have their service accredited. Accredited digital identity services will have a trust mark to enable people and businesses to distinguish between them and non-accredited digital identity services.

Thank you for your interest in the Trust Framework Bill.

Nāku noa, nā



Steve Cutting

Tumuaki | Acting Director | Ministerial, Monitoring and Capability Group