



8 August 2017

Associate Professor Gehan Gunasekara
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Dear Associate Professor Gunasekara

Thank you for the letter written by your Chair, Marie Shroff, asking for information about Labour's privacy policies for this year's election.

Despite the fact that more personal information is vulnerable than ever before, New Zealand is lagging behind the rest of the world when it comes to protecting the public's personal information because privacy law reforms have stalled.

The Government first signalled plans to overhaul New Zealand's privacy laws in 2012 following a report by the Law Commission in 2011 calling for significant reform. Two years later, a range of proposals were revealed - including the introduction of a maximum \$10,000 fine for identity theft and a mandatory requirement to report data breaches to the Commissioner. Since then the Government has stalled on introducing law changes.

Mandatory reporting of privacy breaches and increased enforcement powers for the Privacy Commissioner are just some of the reforms needed to strengthen the framework which protects individuals and entities from harm.

Labour will implement most of the recommendations of the Law Commission Report into the Privacy Act. This includes enabling the Privacy Commission to start investigations without waiting for a complaint.

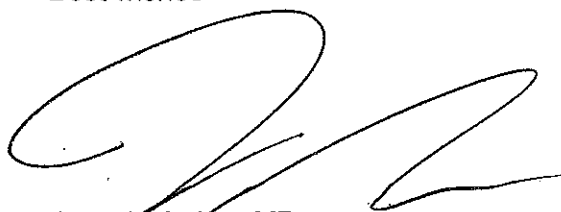
With regards to data collection from social service providers, Labour does not support the requirement of individual client level data collection in order to obtain funding. We think this has the consequence of becoming a deterrent for those seeking help. We support the Privacy Commissioner's recommendation that non-identifiable data is collected by Statistics New Zealand in the Integrated Data Infrastructure.

New Zealand's Intelligence and Security agencies need to be able to adapt to a rapidly changing environment and new challenges. However this must be balanced with the privacy and rights of all New Zealanders. Labour's view is that the rights of New Zealand citizens must be respected even when dealing with national security issues. Creating the right balance is crucial to the confidence Kiwis have in their intelligence and security agencies.

Labour was pleased to secure increased protections for private information in the security and intelligence legislation which was passed last year.

Thank you for writing

Best wishes



Jacinda Ardern MP
Leader of the Opposition

Authorised by Jacinda Ardern MP Parliament Buildings Wellington