



Statement from the Privacy Foundation New Zealand

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Privacy Assessment's Release Essential for Business Certainty

"Tensions are riding high for the Business Community", says Gehan Gunasekara, Privacy Foundation Chairperson. The Privacy Foundation is aware the business community is urgently looking to the Government for clarity in relation to the use of Covid-19 Vaccination Certificates. We understand the business community wants to respect privacy and wants to play a part in the community response to Covid-19, but with so little information or guidance from the Government, business cannot plan or implement any procedural steps in relation to the certificates as New Zealand heads into the commercially busy time of pre-Christmas.

"There are also difficulties for accommodation providers for the summer holiday season." says Mr Gunasekara.

"We believe there is some urgency for Government and relevant government agencies to release any Privacy Impact Assessments that have been undertaken as well as any commentary or stated position from the Privacy Commissioner, so that businesses can start to focus on what they need to do. Time is fast running out for them."

The Government has indicated use of the certificates will be underpinned by a legislative framework. "The sooner this is released the sooner the uncertainties can be addressed", says Gunasekara. "However, the advice on privacy issues involved in its application will be especially useful to business, even before the legislation is unveiled. This will enable businesses to assess the scope of their own responsibilities, as opposed to the responsibilities of the Government."

The New Zealand Privacy Foundation advocates for the protection of the privacy rights of New Zealanders by providing independent, expert and fair public comment on privacy.

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