



Statement from the Privacy Foundation New Zealand

11 May 2022

The Privacy Foundation has Serious Concern about Data Ethics Oversight

The Privacy Foundation is concerned by [Monday's reporting](#) about Statistics New Zealand's Data Ethics Advisory Group.

The Government is pursuing an agenda to drastically expand its data powers under the Data and Statistics Bill, yet its oversight and ethics mechanisms have at best, stagnated or at worst, been neglected.

Current circumstances require more oversight, transparency, and accountability, not less. The global pandemic has increased data collection, sharing and use; failing to ensure this work takes place within ethical and legal boundaries risks the life-saving work losing legitimacy and trust.

While the Minister David Clark argues other support is available, such as the Privacy, Human Rights and Ethics Framework and the Data Protection and Use Policy, these are insufficient. Frameworks and policies are useful, but do not provide effective oversight without support.

This reporting has come during Privacy Week, the theme of which is privacy being the foundation of trust. However, reporting such as this undermines trust, transparency and accountability.

The Government should review its data ethics and privacy work to ensure it remains up to task for now and into the future.

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