



INFORMATION MATCHING BULLETIN

March 2005

Information Matching Newsletter from the Privacy Commissioner

Establishment of Technology Team

The Commissioner is pleased to announce the establishment of a Technology Team within the Office. Lindy Siegert is now the Team Leader (Technology) and she was joined in December by Colin Trotter (DMCA) and Jim Whitman (PA(T)). Brief introductions to the new team members follow. The team has been established in order to address two areas of interest to the Office. The first is the continuing growth in information matching activity by government, from 24 authorised programmes at June 2001 to 70 as of June 2004. The second is the importance of understanding the privacy impacts of new technologies and in particular responding to the privacy issues raised by e-government initiatives.

Data Matching Compliance Adviser Appointed

Colin Trotter is the new Data Matching Compliance Adviser. Colin comes with 4 years experience in the Ministry of Social Development and 19 years experience in banking, of which 13 years were with the I.T. operations group. Colin has been familiarising himself with the details of existing information matching programmes and has met a number of the people involved in

authorised information matches through site visits and work meetings.

Policy Adviser (Technology) Appointed

Jim Whitman arrived from Victoria University of Wellington's Teaching Development Centre. Jim's background (and MSc) is in information and records management, and as a researcher. He has also worked in social services, local authority advice and information services, and community advice. A key responsibility will be privacy issues around online authentication. He's developing his background knowledge and familiarity with the e-Government Unit's authentication projects and its people. He will also be involved in other areas where privacy and technology intersect.

The 2004 Annual Report

The information matching section of the Annual Report has grown as the number of active matches has increased. During the year, four new matches started operating, bringing the total number of active matches to 28, with MSD involved in 17 of these. There were also an additional nine new data matching authorisations passed into law bringing the total number of authorisations to 70.

Online transfers of data are becoming more common. These require individual authorisation from the Privacy Commissioner as the Information Matching Rules prohibit the use of on-line computer connections. A total of eight approvals were granted during the year.

Changes to information technology have meant that it is possible for data matching to be cost effective on a smaller scale than was previously the case and this is evident in the nature of new matches which involve a smaller segment of the population with less dramatic results than the larger long-standing matches such as the IRD/MSD Commencement Cessation match. Details of all active authorised data matching programmes can be found within the Annual Report of the Privacy Commissioner. This can be viewed or downloaded from the website <http://www.privacy.org.nz>

Announcement

Some of our readers may be interested in the Privacy Law and Policy Reporter (PLPR). PLPR reports on privacy developments in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. CCH will email a complimentary copy on request to <http://www.cch.com.au/plpr/>.

Publications

There are a number of publications and reports available from the Privacy Commissioner that may be of interest to those involved in information matching.

These are listed on the Privacy Commissioner's web site at: <http://www.privacy.org.nz>

Contacts: Wellington

109-111 Featherston Street,
gen-i Tower, 4th Floor
PO Box 10-094,
Wellington, New Zealand
Telephone 64-4-474 7590
Facsimile 64-4-474 7595

Internet

<http://www.privacy.org.nz>

Lindy Siegert
Team Leader (Technology)
E-mail: lindy.siegert@privacy.org.nz
Direct Dial: 64-4-494 7082

Colin Trotter
Data Matching Compliance Adviser
E-mail: colin.trotter@privacy.org.nz
Direct Dial: 64-4-494 7087

Jim Whitman
Policy Adviser (Technology)
E-mail: jim.whitman@privacy.org.nz
Direct Dial: 64-4-494 7083

Auckland

Level 8, Gosling Chapman Tower,
51-53 Shortland Street
P O Box 466, Auckland, New Zealand
Telephone 64-9-302 8680
Facsimile: 64-9-302 2305

Blair Stewart
Assistant Commissioner
E-mail: Blair.Stewart@privacy.org.nz