



INFORMATION MATCHING BULLETIN

June 2006 Information Matching Newsletter from the Privacy Commissioner

Information Matching Interest Group – April Meeting

The second meeting of the IMIG was held on 26 April at the State Services Commission and was attended by about 25 agency representatives. The meeting opened with Lindy Siegert from OPC discussing the 2006 UMR Privacy Survey¹. Colin Trotter from OPC then presented information on an audit style approach to s.104 reporting which the Privacy Commissioner's Office intends to adopt for some information matches.

SSC facilitated the second part of the meeting with a group session which looked at what SSC were doing with standards work and how the group might benefit or contribute to that work. SSC also put up the idea of a closed shared workspace in which the IMIG would publish information for use by the group. The group was supportive of this idea and OPC are to progress this along with the IMIG steering group.

Information Matching Workshop: The Privacy Act and Developing an Information Matching Programme.

Expressions of interest are being sought for the first information matching workshop to be delivered in July /August. We intend to provide the workshops in an ongoing basis, dependant on demand from government agencies. Information about the workshop and a Registration of Interest form is included with this bulletin.

¹ Survey results are available on our website <http://www.privacy.org.nz>

New OPC Website Launched

The Privacy Commissioner's new website has just been launched. The site now includes a dedicated section for those interested in or involved with data matching. The development of this section of the website is still in its formative stages with a number of initiatives to be completed in the coming 12 months. We welcome any feedback on the design and content of the new site.

Meetings with Federal Government Agencies During Washington Visit

Lindy Siegert recently attended the 39th meeting of the International Working Group on Data Protection in Telecommunications in Washington D.C. While there she was able to meet with some federal government agencies to discuss various privacy issues. Here are some notes from those meetings.

A presidential directive requires all federal agencies to appoint chief privacy officers. Homeland Security had the first but others are following suit. A listing of all those appointed can be found at the following website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/documents/SAOPcontactlistfinal.pdf>

Discussion with staff at the Office of Management and Budget uncovered a great deal of common interest and responsibilities in government data matching and similar challenges in terms of resources for oversight responsibilities.

Homeland Security also have data matching interests, specifically around the use of commercial data by government and how commercial data can be used in a privacy sensitive manner. They are also interested in

the use of biometrics, particularly fingerprints, because of the FBI database and how there can be connections between that and other programmes.

The Federal Trade Commission doesn't have data matching oversight responsibilities as such but they have established a new division on Privacy and Identity Management to address concerns such as ID theft and credit reporting. As we all know, credit reporting relies on data matching approaches.

OPC hopes to develop further contacts with overseas regulators of data matching. We would also be very interested in knowing if there are any NZ government departments which have developed networks with overseas agencies involved in data matching. This is something which might be discussed at a future IMIG meeting.

New Matches Go Live

As at 31 March the number of active authorised information matching programmes stood at 40. This includes 4 new matches that have started this fiscal year. They are:

- Corrections/NZIS Inmates Match
- ACC/MSD Benefit Eligibility Match
- BDM (Marriages)/MSD Benefit Eligibility Match
- DIA (Citizenship)/BDM (Births) Citizenship by Birth Processing Match

Compiling the s.104 reporting on the active matches and drafting the information matching section of the Privacy Commissioners' annual report represents a large piece of work.

In order for this Office to fulfil its reporting responsibilities in a timely manner we request that agencies provide their match reporting as soon as practicable after the end of the fiscal year.

European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) Press Release: Interoperability of Databases

The following link will take you to comments that Peter Hustinx, EDPS, issued in March this year in which he raises concerns on principal issues and calls for better analysis.

<http://www.statewatch.org/news/2006/mar/EDPS-2006-4-interoperability.pdf>

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