

The privacy system is broad and challenging

We are the regulator of the privacy system – the flows of personal information between individuals and agencies throughout New Zealand. The figure below illustrates the breadth of the privacy system.

The privacy system is a challenging environment to regulate. There is rapid technological changes

and keenness to use technologies such as facial recognition and artificial intelligence. Our regulated sector is very broad, extending to nearly the entire public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Good privacy practice requires every agency to consider its specific situation, and many have a low understanding about how to manage privacy well.

Key parties in the privacy system

Wider privacy system

Industry bodies

Represent and champion the interests of agencies

Privacy advisors

Assist agencies with advice on how to meet privacy requirements

ICT providers

Provide agencies with processing or storage capabilities

Core regulatory system

Ministry of Justice

Lead government agency for privacy policy advice

Office of the Privacy Commissioner

Regulator of the privacy system

Individuals

Individuals have their personal information used by agencies in return for goods and services

Agencies

Agencies (public and private) use personal information to achieve their objectives

Human Rights Review Tribunal

Judicial body for privacy issues

Advocacy groups

Help individuals directly or advocate for privacy improvements on their behalf

Māori organisations

Represent Māori interests with a core focus on the success and wellbeing of Māori