

More changes to Credit Reporting Privacy Code on 1 July 2019

Further changes to the Credit Reporting Privacy Code took effect on 1 July 2019.

In 2018, the Privacy Commissioner sought to amend the Code to make the credit reporting system fairer for consumers and improving enforcement and compliance.

The Code has been amended to reflect improvements which took effect on 1 July 2019 and [the earlier changes](#) which came into effect on 1 April 2019.

More changes will take effect on 1 October 2019.

Here's what the 1 July 2019 changes mean for consumers.

Access to free credit score

Individuals will now have access to a credit score from the credit reporter, if the credit reporter has a practice of releasing such scores to subscribers. In other words, if the credit reporter is in the business of creating a score which characterises individual creditworthiness and selling to third parties, individuals are entitled to see that score.

Outer time limit for access to credit information

The outer time limit for giving access to credit information to an individual is now reduced from 20 working days to 10 working days. This reflects certain realities in this industry (that the information is already collated and ready to go to a verified individual at the press of a button) and to key objectives of the Code that relate to unimpeded and prompt access as a critical measure to promote trust and accuracy.

Permissible charges for expedited access

The Code generally requires subject access to be provided free of charge. However, a small charge has been permitted where a requester demands access within three working days (formerly five working days). This reduction in working days is approximately in proportion with the reduction in the outer time limited for granting subject access from 20 to 10 working days.

More changes to come

More changes to the Credit Reporting Privacy Code will come into effect on 1 October 2019. To find out more about all the changes, [read our Information Paper](#) or email us at policy@privacy.org.nz.