

**Response to Privacy Foundation inquiry:**

Act believes in the right to an individual's privacy. We place faith in the businesses and institutions that we share our data with that it will be properly protected and not misused for improper purposes.

Despite this faith many people often find that their data has not been managed correctly or personal identification has been obtained by other parties, breaching their right to privacy and their protections under the law.

Data leaks have a negative effect on public confidence, particularly if these leaks involve data that is managed by government agencies. Data leaks by private companies face serious consequences but government often faces no such consequences or accountability when it comes to their mis-handling of data.

ACT's view is that we must maintain a watchful eye over how data is stored, managed and accessed and that both private organisations and government institutions need to face consequences in the event of data breaches. Our principle is that an individual's right to privacy must be at the forefront of our decision making.

During this extraordinary period New Zealand is going through with COVID-19 and agencies collecting and sharing data, it's critical that our policies and processes are robust enough to protect people's privacy.