

New Zealand is falling behind key trading partners when it comes to our privacy regulation. Do you support updating our Privacy Act 2020 to provide modern, efficient and effective regulation, and, if so, what would be your key priorities for reform?

Privacy is a fundamental human right and National will consider any changes as necessary that might be required to ensure that privacy regulation remains modern, efficient and effective in a rapidly changing environment – as we did when we supported the Privacy Act 2020.

If in power, what would be your party's approach with the exposure draft of the Customer and Product Data Bill, and how would you ensure people have access to their data and can require banks, energy or telecommunication providers to share customer data with their competitors, without sacrificing privacy?

National will continue the passage of the Customer and Product Data Bill, as this is one of the prerequisites for facilitating open banking. It is open banking that offers people with the opportunity to allow for smarter banking, energy and telecommunication outcomes. In pursuing this we will work with the sector to make the Bill fit for purpose.

If in power, what would be your party's approach towards the Government's refreshed Cloud First Policy announced in April 2023? Are there additional steps you would take to ensure that New Zealand Data Sovereignty and Māori Data Sovereignty are respected? How would you prevent over-dependence on overseas-based technology service providers and ensure their accountability? What safeguards do you consider necessary to protect the public sector data hosted in the cloud against exploitation for secondary uses?

National will continue the work of the Cloud First Policy to ensure that critical Public data is held onshore where possible for Government Digital Services.

We acknowledge the importance of data sovereignty for individuals and organisations and recognise the emerging risks internationally for core government digital assets to be digitally stored outside domestic jurisdictions.

We will work closely with local and international Cloud service providers to safeguard all New Zealand owned-information that has been provided to their care.

We also support the development of the several major cloud storage and digital 'edge' services domestically alongside existing providers as part of our growing digital economy and this will further the patriation of data directly within localised New Zealand assets. Alongside this we need to see a stronger co-ordinated approach to cybersecurity and digital safety in New Zealand and will commit to ensuring stronger cyber-resilience practices across Crown entities.