



Cabinet

CAB Min (11) 29/12

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Minute of Decision

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Open Government

Portfolio: Finance

On 8 August 2011, Cabinet:

Background

- 1 noted that Cabinet has supported open and transparent government through Direction Two of the Directions and Priorities for Government ICT, and open access and licensing of non-personal government materials through the New Zealand Government Open Access and Licensing Framework (NZGOAL);
- 2 noted that this support provides the direction for the cross-government work programme led by the Data and Information Re-use Chief Executives Steering Group;
- 3 noted that the cross-government data and information work programme is driving innovative initiatives between business, communities and government as sought in the Directions and Priorities for Government ICT;
- 4 noted the anticipated benefits from active release of government data;

Declaration and Principles

- 5 agreed to the Declaration on Open and Transparent Government, attached as Appendix One to this minute, and the supporting New Zealand Data and Information Management Principles, attached as Appendix Two to this minute;
- 6 noted that the New Zealand Data and Information Management Principles supersede and replace the Policy Framework for Government Held Information [CAB (97) M 15/4C(i)], which will no longer apply;

- 7 7.1 **directed** all public service and non-public services departments;
- 7.2 **encouraged** State Services agencies; and
- 7.3 **invited** State Sector agencies; to:

commit to releasing high value public data actively for re-use, in accordance with the Declaration and Principles referred to in paragraph 5, and in accordance with the NZGOAL Review and Release process;

- 8 **directed** Chief Executives to submit their plans to actively release public data to portfolio Ministers for approval;

Local government

- 9 **invited** the Minister of Local Government to write to local authorities and Local Government New Zealand informing the local government sector of the proposals and encouraging councils, where they consider it appropriate, to take a similar approach;

Steering group

- 10 **noted** that the Data and Information Re-use Chief Executives Steering Group will sponsor and lead a work programme of guidance and advice to support this activity;
- 11 **noted** that the Data and Information Re-use Chief Executives Steering Group will report the aggregate plans annually to the Ministerial Committee on Government ICT;

Publicity

- 12 **noted** that the Minister of Finance intends to publicly release the paper attached to CAB (11) 467 and the accompanying Cabinet minute.

Rebecca Kitteridge
Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (11) 467; CAB Min (11) 28/4

Distribution:
All Ministers
All Chief Executives

Appendix One

Declaration on Open and Transparent Government

Building on New Zealand's democratic tradition, the government commits to actively releasing high value public data²².

The government holds data on behalf of the New Zealand public. We release it to enable the private and community sectors to use it to grow the economy, strengthen our social and cultural fabric, and sustain our environment. We release it to encourage business and community involvement in government decision-making.

Through this commitment New Zealand citizens and businesses can expect a more efficient and accountable public sector, more services tailored to their needs, and a greater level of participation in shaping government decisions.

Releasing government data will help create the conditions that align central, regional and local government programmes and business initiatives.

By actively releasing taxpayer funded data we will assist educational, research, and scientific communities and the public to collaboratively build on existing data to gain new knowledge and apply it.

To support this declaration, the government asserts that the data and information it holds on behalf of the public must be open, trusted and authoritative, well managed, readily available, without charge where possible, and reusable, both legally and technically. Personal and classified data and information must be protected.

Public service and non-public service departments are directed and State Services agencies encouraged to commit to the release of high value public data for re-use in accordance with the declaration and principles. State Sector agencies and territorial and regional Chief Executives are also invited to participate in this initiative. Agencies are asked to regularly report to Ministers on their progress.

²² Public data refers to non-personal and unclassified data.

Appendix Two

New Zealand Data and Information Management Principles	
Principle	Description
Open	Data and information held by government should be open for public access unless grounds for refusal or limitations exist under the Official Information Act or other government policy. In such cases they should be protected.
Protected	Personal, confidential and classified ²³ data and information are protected.
Readily Available	Open data and information are released proactively and without discrimination. They are discoverable and accessible and released online.
Trusted and Authoritative	Data and information support the purposes for which they were collected and are accurate, relevant, timely, consistent and without bias in that context. Where possible there is an identified authoritative single source.
Well Managed	<p>Data and information held and owned by government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effectively belong to the New Zealand public • are a core strategic asset held by government as a steward on behalf of the public; and • should only be collected or generated for specified public policy, operational business, or legislative purposes. <p>Agencies are stewards of government-held data and information and must provide and require good practices which manage the data and information over their life-cycle, including catering for technological obsolescence and long-term preservation and access. Good practices also include collaborating with other agencies and the public, facilitating access, strengthening awareness, and supporting international cooperation.</p> <p>Agency custodians must implement these practices on a day-to-day basis.</p>
Reasonably Priced	<p>Use and re-use of government held data and information is expected to be free. Charging for access is discouraged.</p> <p>Pricing to cover the costs of dissemination is only appropriate where it can be clearly demonstrated that this pricing will not act as a barrier to the use or re-use of the data. If a charge is applied for access to data, it should be transparent, consistent, reasonable and the same cost to all requestors.</p>
Reusable	<p>Data and information released can be discovered, shared, used and re-used over time and through technology change. Copyright works are licensed for re-use and open access to and re-use of non-copyright materials is enabled, in accordance with the New Zealand Government Open Access and Licensing framework.</p> <p>Data and information are released:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at source, with the highest possible level of granularity • in re-usable, machine-readable format • with appropriate metadata; and • in aggregate or modified forms if they cannot be released in their original state. <p>Data and information released in proprietary formats are also released in open, non-proprietary formats.</p> <p>Digital rights technologies are not imposed on materials made available for re-use.</p>

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