



39th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

Closed Session in-depth Discussion: Session Description

26 September 2017, Hong Kong

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SHARING: PROTECTING SENSITIVE DATA, PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION AND MANAGING RISK

Around the world, governments are increasingly seeking to break down public sector information and organisational silos to drive commercial innovation, disseminate knowledge, increase transparency, enhance public services and seek cost savings and efficiencies.

The Closed Session will examine the benefits and effects of these developments and examine where these efforts leave privacy and data protection and what might usefully be done by Data Protection Authorities.

The day will explore what is driving government information sharing and the related barriers, benefits and risks. We will hear how new technologies are affecting practices for good or ill. Speakers will reference case studies illustrating how these issues are playing out in governments around the world.

The programme includes plenty of opportunity for discussion amongst Commissioners.

Opening scene setter from ICDPPC Chair [10 minutes]

The Chair (John Edwards, New Zealand Privacy Commissioner) will set the scene with brief introductory remarks on traditional practice in government information-sharing and the current and emerging role of data protection law and data protection authorities in the oversight and circulation of personal data within the public sector. It would serve both as background and lay the foundation for discussion of current practice.

First group of speakers [30 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A for each speaker followed by 35 minutes group discussion]

Drivers and barriers to information sharing and where governments are heading

The first group of speakers will examine what is driving and hindering government information sharing in the context of economic conditions, policy objectives, public demands and new technologies. Speakers will help Commissioners understand the issues and highlight both the positive and negative features of information sharing.

Institutional, Cultural and behavioural barriers: getting information sharing right

Stephen Curtis: Director of the Centre of Excellence for Information Sharing, UK. Drawing upon national and international experience, Stephen will share insights into information sharing, the cultural and behavioural barriers and internal processes which help make it happen successfully.

Stephen will highlight the need to focus upon meeting service user needs and the information sharing and governance challenges in getting this right.

Technological transformation: joined up-working in modern government

[Eric Applewhite](#): Director for Public Sector Technology and Transformation at KPMG, UK. He has focused on the importance of data sharing as a prerequisite for joining up public services as public bodies respond to ever more restricted budgets and the need to demonstrate effective public services through predictive analytics and better digital access. He has extensive experience advising clients in North America and Europe on project assurance and technology integration efforts, including the City of New York. Eric will share a technological perspective.

Collect once, use many times: An Estonian case study

[Viljar Peep](#): Director General of the Estonian Data Protection Inspectorate, Estonia. Estonia has been called ‘the most digital country in the world’. The Estonian Commissioner will share a regulator’s perspective under his country’s government practice of collection of information under a “collect once, use many times” model.

First Panel

Questions will be taken following the completion of all three speaker’s presentations. All three will reconvene as a panel for the discussion.

Second group of speakers [30 minutes + 5 minutes Q&A for each speaker followed by 35 minutes group discussion]

How government shared use of information can trigger public concerns about discrimination and protection of sensitive information

The second group of speakers will look at questions of risk management, ethical analysis devoted to avoiding discrimination and unpack the complexities of sharing within governments and with other players involved in public programmes. The panel will also explore the use of administrative datasets to research the determinants of social or health outcomes and the development of predictive risk modelling and profiling, which carry risks to individual privacy and autonomy. The panelists will discuss both sides of this story: the reliability of the data science and modelling to inform public policy and the risks of using such tools prompt government interventions into the lives of individuals.

Getting data to tell a useful story

[Rhema Viathianathan](#): Professor of Economics at the Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. Getting data to tell a useful story is a simple description of the complex work that is done by Sri Lankan born health economist Rhema Vaithianathan. She will discuss trials of predictive risk modelling using administrative data to detect child abuse that has been trialled in the field in New Zealand and Pittsburg, PA, in the USA.

Producing trusted official statistics from personal records

[Liz Macpherson](#) Government Statistician, New Zealand. Liz will speak to the issues from the perspective of the Chief Executive of the national government agency responsible for official statistics and will focus particularly on her country’s Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI), which brings together tax, health, justice, education and accident insurance data to extract value for government without compromising privacy or trust in the statistical agency.

Risks and responses more generally to publicly accessible information

[John Bacon-Shone](#): Director, Social Sciences Research Centre, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong. John will draw upon his background in social science research to explore how government shared use of information can trigger public concerns about discrimination and protection of sensitive information and how best to manage publicly accessible information, not only government data, but also for example, research data from universities.

Second Panel

Questions will be taken following the completion of both speakers who will reconvene as a panel.

General discussion: What is to be done? [35 minutes]

All 5 speakers will return for a general discussion of the entire topic.