

Government Information Sharing: *Protecting sensitive data, preventing discrimination and managing risk*

Announcement regarding Closed Session of 39th Conference, Hong Kong, 25 September 2017

In [June](#) I announced that the Executive Committee had endorsed 'information sharing within governments' as the focus for in-depth discussion on the first day of the closed session at this year's annual meeting and I am pleased now to share further details of what is planned.

Drivers and barriers to information sharing and where governments are heading

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. Expert speakers will help us understand the issues and highlight positive and negative features of information sharing.

Shared use of information can trigger public concerns about discrimination and data protection

Speakers will explain processes of risk management, ethical analysis devoted to avoiding discrimination and unpack the complexities of sharing within governments and with other players. We will hear how the use of administrative datasets for government research and the development of predictive risk modelling and profiling, which carry risks to privacy and autonomy. Both sides of this story will be discussed: 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.

We have secured world class experts from within academia, business, government and regulation:

- ❖ Stephen Curtis: Director of the Centre of Excellence for Information Sharing, UK.
- ❖ Eric Applewhite: Director for Public Sector Technology and Transformation at KPMG, UK.
- ❖ Viljar Peep: Director General of the Estonian Data Protection Inspectorate, Estonia.
- ❖ Rhema Viathianathan: Professor of Economics at the Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand.
- ❖ Liz Macpherson: Government Statistician, New Zealand.
- ❖ John Bacon-Shone: Director, Social Sciences Research Centre, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Hong Kong.

We can look forward to a well-informed discussion of some of the most challenging information issues confronting governments and privacy and data protection authorities.