

An overview of NZ data and information principles

This draft guide explains what data and information management principles are, and the value they contribute, and outlines the data and information management principles used in the New Zealand government context. The target audience for this guide is NZ government agencies.

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our gratitude to Pam Madgwick of [InfoRethink](#) for creating this guide for the Open Data Programme. Pam has not only conducted research but contributed her knowledge and experience to provide valuable insights into the government data and information context.

Have your say

This is a draft guide intended to generate discussion on the guide's content and to stimulate the creation of a new and better guide. We need your feedback and suggestions for improvements. Are there any other principles or frameworks that need to be included? Do you have any questions you would like answered in the guide? Join the discussion on [Loomio](#) or email opendata@stats.govt.nz

What are data and information management principles?

Data and information management principles usually comprise a small number of broad but concise statements which collectively guide how data and information is expected to be managed and made available in the context for which the principles are developed eg for an agency, sector or national jurisdiction. The principles may be broad in scope or address a specific component of data and information management. They are a guide to expected behaviours, and a guide to decision making. Each principle may have an accompanying explanatory statement providing greater detail on scope and application.

In the New Zealand government context, we have a range of data and information related principles and frameworks. These include:

- NZ Data and Information Management Principles (NZDIMP)
- International Open Data Charter Principles (ODC)
- Principles for the safe and effective use of data and analytics (SEUDA)
- NZ Government Open Access and Licensing Framework (NZGOAL).

We also have:

- The [NZ Government ICT Strategy](#) which articulates focus areas with the characteristics of principles in that they provide statements of expectation leading to outcomes which are much in alignment with those of the NZDIMP
- The Office of the Privacy Commissioner's [Privacy Principles](#).
- [A Path to Social Licence](#) which is a guide to trusted data use published by the Data Futures Partnership.

Why have data and information management principles?

These principles work together to provide a strong framework for enabling and managing an open data and information environment. Translating our data and information management principles into action will make available a vast array of data and information which may otherwise have remained accessible only to a few.

Social and economic value

Easy access to data and information:

- aids evidence-based decision making
- provides greater insight into the nature of complex problems
- lays the foundation for innovative solutions or new business opportunities.

Benefits will be both internal to the agency, and external to wider society. The [Preamble to the ODC Principles](#) provides insight into the opportunities open data can present.

Table 1 outlines the high-level outcomes which are expected to be achieved through application of the NZDIMP and ODC Principles; and shows the alignment with the outcomes expressed in the NZ Government ICT Strategy.

Table 1: High-level societal outcomes

Principles and strategic statements	Societal outcomes
Declaration on Open and Transparent Government (through applying the NZDIMP)	<p>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.</p> <p>Conditions created that align central, regional and local government programmes and business initiatives</p> <p>...educational, research and scientific communities and the public [able] to build on existing data to gain new knowledge and apply it</p>
ODC Principles 5 & 6	<p>For improved governance & citizen engagement</p> <p>For inclusive development and innovation</p>

Principles and strategic statements	Societal outcomes
NZ Government ICT Strategy	<p>Customers experience seamless, integrated and trusted public services.</p> <p>Information-driven insights are reshaping services and policies; and adding public and private value.</p> <p>Adoption of information and technology innovations is accelerated and value is being created.</p> <p>Investment in innovative digital services is being prioritised and benefits are being realised.</p> <p>Complex problems are being solved and innovative solutions are being adopted.</p> <p><i>“How we get there is driven by the opportunities we take and where we focus our effort.” - - New Zealand Government ICT Strategy 2015</i></p>

Value to government agencies

While these outcomes are expressing external outcomes, there are internal agency benefits too. For example, improved governance and citizen engagement will increase agency reputation in the community, and the improved flow of data and information between agencies and indeed governments will improve our own agency knowledge.

The NZDIMP *Well Managed* principle states: data and information held and owned by government should only be collected or generated for specific public policy, operational business or legislative purposes...Good practices also include collaborating with other agencies and the public, facilitating access, strengthening awareness, and supporting international co-operation.

The ODC states: open data presents opportunities to provide innovative, evidence-based policy solutions and support economic benefits and social development for all members of society. Open data can do this by, for example:

- Supporting evidence-based policy making – encouraging governments’ use of data in policy development and evidence-based decision-making, which enables improved public policy outcomes and underpins sustainable economic and social development;
- Enabling cross-sector collaboration – supporting collaboration among governments, citizens, and civil society and private sector organizations on the design of policies and the delivery of better public services. (Source: [Preamble to Open Data Charter Principles – section 8](#))

Internally, the data and information management principles will lead to improved:

- engagement - with greater understanding of why data and information management is important
- data and information management skills
- data and information flows / access to agency held information
- policy development and advice

- consistency in decision-making
- service design and service delivery
- information to inform prioritisation
- asset management and allocation
- investment outcomes
- accountability and a greater trust in government.

This is not an exhaustive list and agencies benefits will vary, but the benefits will be there, and be measurable.

Principles in the NZ government context

The information and open data principle statements which contribute to building a strong, open data and information environment in New Zealand are described in table 2. Individual government agencies may also have agency or sector data and/or information management principles developed as a part of their information policies and strategies.

Table 2: Mandated data and information management principles, strategies, and frameworks

Principles	Mandated by	Purpose
NZDIMP NZ Data and Information Management Principles	Cabinet 2011	<p>The Declaration on Open and Transparent Government (The Declaration) sets out the purpose of the principles.</p> <p>In summary, government data and information should be open, readily available, well managed, reasonably priced and re-usable unless there are necessary reasons for its protection. Personal and classified information will remain protected. Government data and information should also be trusted and authoritative.</p> <p>https://www.ict.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/open-government/new-zealand-data-and-information-management-principles/</p>
ODC International Open Data Charter	Cabinet 2017	<p>Open data is digital data that is made available with the technical and legal characteristics necessary for it to be freely used, reused, and redistributed by anyone, anytime, anywhere.</p> <p>The six International Open Data Charter Principles were developed...to represent a globally agreed set of aspirational norms for how to publish data. The Open Data Charter is a collaboration between governments and experts working to make data open.</p> <p>https://opendatacharter.net/principles/</p> <p>The charter reinforces the NZ Government's existing expectations on agencies to be proactively releasing high value open data and working towards an 'open by default' approach.</p>

Principles	Mandated by	Purpose
		<p>https://data.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/open-data/open-data-policy/</p> <p>Stats NZ has developed and is responsible for the NZ Open Data Action Plan which provides a co-ordinated government-wide response by setting goals which will assist agencies to implement the ODC principles and goals; and will be the mechanism for achieving the systemic changes required to ensure clear roles and responsibilities, common rules, consistent approaches and standards, and where appropriate, centralised and shared solutions.</p> <p>https://data.govt.nz/community/news/open-data-action-plan/</p>
<p>NZGOAL</p> <p>NZ Government Open Access and Licensing Framework</p>	<p>Cabinet 2011</p>	<p>NZGOAL is government guidance for agencies to follow when releasing copyright works and non-copyright material for re-use by others.</p> <p>The Framework [Version 2] aims to standardise the licensing of government copyright works for re-use using Creative Commons licences and recommends statements for non-copyright material. The Framework contains the principles.</p> <p>https://www.ict.govt.nz/guidance-and-resources/open-government/new-zealand-government-open-access-and-licensing-nzgoal-framework/nzgoal2/</p>
<p>SEUDA</p> <p>Principles for the safe and effective use of data and analytics</p>	<p>Jointly developed by the Chief Government Data Steward and the Privacy Commissioner</p>	<p>Guidance, oversight, and transparency are essential to fostering trust, confidence and integrity around the use of data the government holds on behalf of New Zealanders. It is important for Kiwis to understand how their data is used.</p> <p>These principles support safe and effective use of data and analytics. They will underpin the development of guidance to support government agencies on best practice for the use of data and analytics for decision-making.</p> <p>Principles-for-the-safe-and-effective-use-of-data-and-analytics-guidance.pdf</p>
<p>NZ Government ICT Strategy</p>	<p>Cabinet 2015</p>	<p>By making government-held information more available, we can increase public trust and encourage willingness to share and reuse data. Data analytics and predictive modelling can use data to solve complex problems and generate innovative ideas.</p> <p>We are most interested in Opportunity Area 2 – Unlock the value of information.</p> <p>https://www.ict.govt.nz/strategy-and-action-plan/strategy/</p>

Principles	Mandated by	Purpose
Privacy principles (Office of the Privacy Commissioner)	Privacy Act 1993	At the heart of the Privacy Act are twelve privacy principles which cover the collection, storage and security, access to, accuracy of, correction of, retention, use and disclosure, and unique identifiers of personal information. https://www.privacy.org.nz/your-rights/the-privacy-principles/
A Path to Social Licence	Published by the Data Futures Partnership	Guidelines for trusted data use. “For New Zealand organisations (companies, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations) seeking to use personal data the guidelines promote practices that will improve the levels of comfort and trust among those individuals providing data as well as within the wider community.” http://datafutures.co.nz/our-work-2/talking-to-new-zealanders/



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