



Government Digital Services briefing

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister for Government Digital Services

Copy to: Prime Minister's Office
Minister of Finance
Minister of Health
Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister of Justice

Title: COVID-19 Response: Update on Bluetooth-Enabled Card Assessment

Date: 30 April 2020

Key issues

A multi-agency team is currently assessing the option of using a Bluetooth-enabled card to assist with Covid-19 Contact tracing, in partnership with the COVID-19 Public Private Partnership team. This is expected to be completed by early June 2020.

If the option is approved by Cabinet, implementation is expected to begin mid-July 2020 and be completed by late August 2020.

Action sought	Timeframe
<p>Note the contents of this update</p> <p>Agree to set up a meeting with officials and the Minister of Finance, Minister of Health, Minister of Internal Affairs, and Minister of Justice to discuss further</p>	By Friday 8 May 2020

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Direct phone line	After hours phone	Suggested 1 st contact
Michael Woodside	Director, Policy	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	✓
Chris East	Chief Advisor, Office of the CE	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	

Return to	Nathan Mountfort, Department of Internal Affairs
Cohesion reference	4UAZY7VS6QRJ-168030080-478
Ministerial database reference	GDS202000126

Purpose

1. This paper updates you on the approach to the work to assess the viability of a Bluetooth-enabled card to assist the government's Covid-19 contact tracing response.

Background

2. On 20 April 2020 Cabinet noted that officials are assessing the option of a Bluetooth-enabled card to support contact tracing and will report back to: The Minister of Finance; Minister for Government Digital Services; Minister of Health; and Minister of Internal Affairs [CAB-20-MIN-0175 refers].
3. Effective contact tracing is a critical component of the strategy to eliminate COVID-19 in New Zealand, by identifying close contacts and isolating them quickly and stopping the spread of the virus.
4. The work to assess the viability of issuing Bluetooth-enabled cards to the population complements existing and planned contact tracing activities led by the Ministry of Health (MoH).
5. The card would enable contact tracing at scale by recording when a card comes into close contact with other cards. The cards would not store or record personal information or location data, but it will contain a unique identifier. Card contact information would be stored in a central database that would only be accessed if a cardholder tests positive and close contacts needed to be notified.
6. The card will be assessed over the next six weeks. If approval is given to proceed with implementation, then this would likely be complete by the end of August 2020.
7. In support of MoH and the government's overall COVID-19 Response, the Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) is working with the Public Private Partnership (PPP) COVID-19 team on the proof of concept for the Bluetooth enabled contact tracing card.
8. This proof of concept will assess the feasibility of the technology, ability for distribution, approach to management of the cards and the associated database, as well as examining the associated policy and regulatory issues. This work will inform the report back to Ministers, with initial prototype costs funded by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA).

Governance and engagement approach

9. The GCDO has taken the lead in establishing a governance model reporting into responsible Ministers for this work, with the following key elements:
 - a) A Card Prototype Executive Governance Board has been created to provide oversight and advice on the project. The Board is made up of representatives from: The Ministry of Health; GCDO; Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE); and the PPP.
 - b) A core Programme Team involving several workstreams and officials from several agencies, including MBIE, DIA and the Ministry of Justice.
10. A high-level breakdown of the governance structure for this project is attached as **Appendix A**.
11. The Ministry of Justice is one of the agencies working on the project as part of the Policy workstream, given issues of privacy and rights that need to be explored. Justice officials have indicated that the Minister of Justice would be interested in being

involved in pre-Cabinet Ministerial discussions on the potential implementation of the Bluetooth-enabled Card.

12. The Chief Data Officer, Privacy Commissioner, Chief Information Security Officer and GCSB have been engaged.
13. The PPP team are leading the engagement with solution providers including design, prototyping and delivery. A key focus is ensuring the certification of the card configuration parameters and the integration of the data with MoH's overall contact tracing process.

Project approach and key milestones

14. The project plan workstreams and high-level milestones are outlined as (**Appendix B**).
15. Currently a multi-agency team is working on this project. The project is split into five workstreams: Policy; Ministerial Advice; Finance & Procurement; Comms & Marketing; and Product Development.
16. Product Development is also split into a further three phases. Currently the project is in Phase 1 - Product Development and Validation. It is expected that this phase will be completed by early June.
17. Some of the key milestones to take note of are as follows:

Early-May 2020 – Card trials and software improvements begin.

Late-May 2020 – Feasibility assessment of the card has been completed.

Early June 2020 – Cabinet paper drafted for consultation.

Mid-June 2020 – Report back to Cabinet with recommendations for next steps. If approved, the process to create the cards begins.

Mid-July 2020 – First cards are sent out.

Late August 2020 – Rollout is complete.

Next steps

18. Work will continue under each of the workstreams identified in **Appendix B**.
19. To inform the development of the Cabinet paper and keep responsible Ministers informed, officials will provide further briefings with updates on progress and to test policy direction.

Recommendations

20. We recommend that you:

- a) **note** the contents of this update
- b) **note** that further briefings will be provided to test policy direction prior to the development of a Cabinet Paper
- c) **agree** to set up a meeting with officials and the Ministers of Finance, Internal Affairs, Health and Justice to discuss this work and provide feedback on the approach.

Yes/No



Michael Woodside
Director, Policy

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister for Government Digital Services

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Appendix A: Covid19 Card governance structure

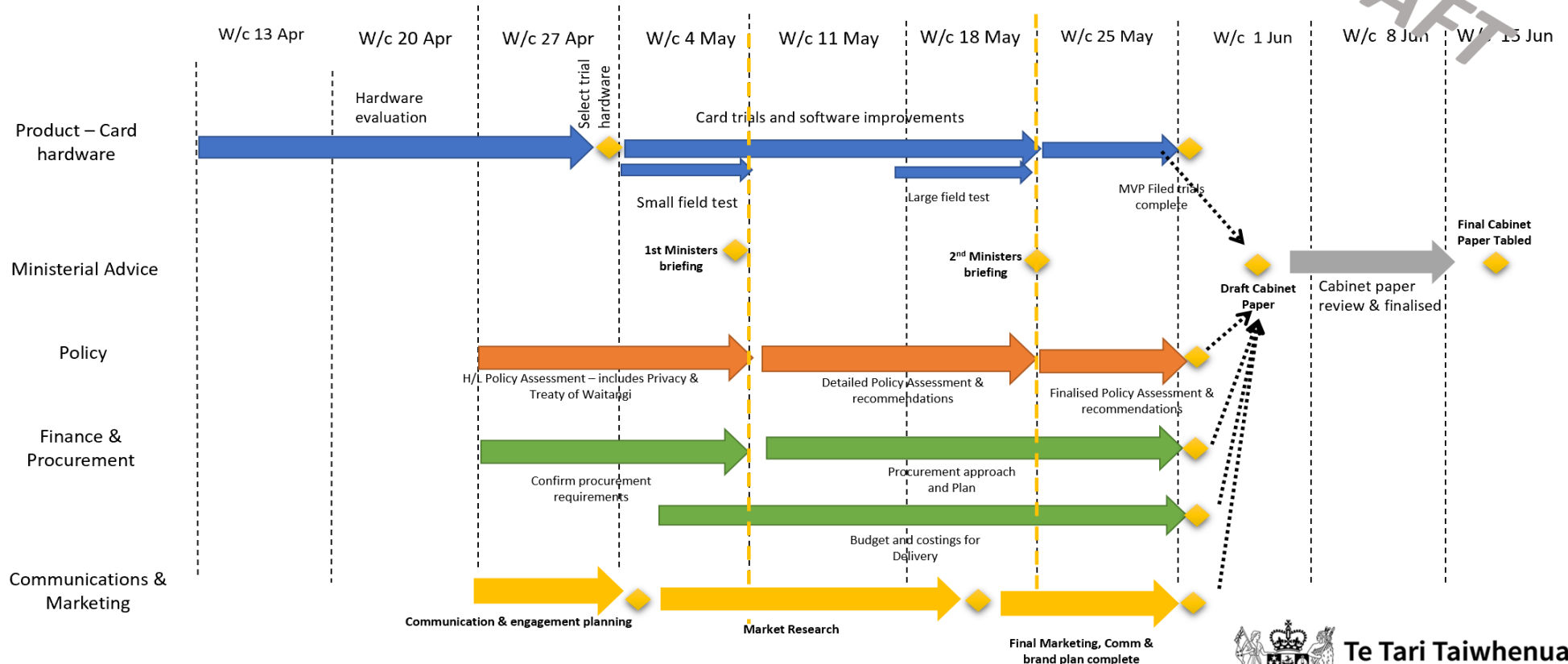
9(2)(f)(iv)



Appendix B: Draft Covid-19 contact card phase 1 programme and milestone

Covid-19 Contact Card Prototype – Phase 1 Product Validation April – June 2020

DRAFT



Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs