



# Government Digital Services briefing

**Hon Kris Faafoi**  
**Minister for Government Digital Services**

**Title: Undertaking the next phase of work on the CovidCard**

**Date: 4 August 2020**

Key issues
<p>The Public Private Partnership group (PPP) has confirmed they are no longer going to be involved in the next phase of the CovidCard work as a group.</p> <p>9(2)(f)(iv)</p>

Action sought	Timeframe
<p>Note that the Public Private Partnership group has confirmed they are no longer going to be involved in the next phase of the CovidCard work as a group;</p> <p>Note that alongside the Ministry of Health, we are working to complete plans on the next phase of work on the CovidCard; and</p> <p>9(2)(f)(iv)</p>	As soon as possible

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Direct phone line	After hours phone	Suggested 1 <sup>st</sup> contact
Ann-Marie Cavanagh	Deputy Chief Executive	04 494 0620	9(2)(a)	✓
Michael Woodside	Director Policy	9(2)(a)		

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## Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with an update on the Public Private Partnership group's (PPP) confirmation that they will no longer be involved in the next phase of the CovidCard work as a group and the options officials are exploring in order to proceed with the trial.

## Background

2. On 3 August 2020, Cabinet considered the paper *Using the CovidCard to improve contact tracing*. Cabinet confirmed the Social Wellbeing Committee decision [CAB-20-MIN-0359] to note your intention to undertake trials and research into the CovidCard [SWC-20-MIN-0119].


9(2)(f)(iv)



### **The Public Private Partnership group has confirmed they are no longer going to be involved in the next phase of the CovidCard work as a group**

4. Following the Cabinet consideration, we further engaged with the PPP about their involvement with the CovidCard work. On 4 August 2020, we were notified that the group had decided to pause their involvement.

9(2)(f)(iv)



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<sup>1</sup> Our indicative costings for this option are approximately \$3.3 million.

## We are working to complete plans for the next phase of work on the CovidCard

9(2)(f)(iv)

- *Further trials:* This would involve further closed trials to measure card performance in social settings and get further information on the accuracy of the data collection process, as well as an open field trial to determine how the card performs in community settings.
- *Market research agency to test public sentiment to contact tracing technologies:* This research would give insights into whether people would use these technologies as required to improve contact tracing, which would inform advice about deploying these technologies.
- *Privacy and security assessments:* A robust privacy impact assessment will help ensure sufficient privacy protections are in place for any deployment of the CovidCard and associated systems. Protections for the CovidCard and associated systems would be important to encourage people to use the card and maintain public trust. The assessment would also be required before any decision could be made on deploying the CovidCard.
- *Further design work:* We will also complete further design work into the CovidCard.

9(2)(f)(iv)

### **Risk**

9(2)(f)(iv)

9(2)(f)(iv)

### Next steps

15. We are proactively working with the Ministry of Health on options on the way forward.
16. We will update your office by 2pm (if not earlier) on Wednesday 5 August 2020 on the latest developments.

### Recommendations

17. We recommend that you:
  - a) **note** that the Public Private Partnership group has confirmed they are no longer going to be involved in the next phase of the CovidCard work as a group;
  - b) **note** that alongside the Ministry of Health, we are working to complete plans on the next phase of work on the CovidCard; and
  - c) 9(2)(f)(iv)



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Director Policy

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