



Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing regarding the Genomics Aotearoa project. In order to ensure privacy of sensitive genetic information, we are seeking clarification on your data sharing policies.

We note that your project involves partnerships with commercial companies for the conservation and agricultural applications, but seek clarification on any potential commercial partnerships with companies planning to use human genetic information.

We also note that the project aims to be contextualised within Maori principles that place emphasis on responsibilities that deliver outcomes that are culturally appropriate, however we did not find principles would extend to privacy protections with regard to data sharing in your ethical guidelines.

We seek clarification on exactly what privacy protections are in place to prevent access to identifiable genetic information by law enforcement and immigration services. This includes what policies are in place to prevent data breaches by your organisation and partners. Further, we seek clarification on whether such data is sold to additional third party companies.

We also request access to the consent forms that do not appear to be publicly available on the website. Moreover, we could not find any information on what occurs to data following withdrawal of participants and whether data is retained or deleted, and request clarification on this.

The information that is provided, or not provided to us, will be shared with the public in order to promote transparency and to inform on the privacy implications of growing genetic databases. We thus thank you for any information that you can share with us to facilitate this process.

Yours sincerely,

Dr [REDACTED]

Policy Officer

Email: [REDACTED]