

TALKING POINTS AND Q&As FOR PRIME MINISTER

I have been made aware there has been a digital privacy breach involving personal information provided to Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage as part of the application process for trainee berths in the Tuia 250 Voyage programme.

The breach – which happened as a result of an information management issue - means that identity documents, and other personal information, were able to be accessed via the Tuia 250 website.

This is very disappointing, and several investigations are being established to determine how this occurred.

Right now, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage is making contact with all the people who applied for the trainee berths to ensure they are aware of the breach and to put in place processes to address any privacy and security concerns they have.

This includes working with the Department of Internal Affairs and New Zealand Transport Agency to manage security issues around identity documents.

[INSERT info on call centre / website for affected parties.]

Reactive Q+As

Was this a result of hacking?

No. The Ministry has undertaken forensic testing of the breach and the advice they received is that this was the result of an information management issue on an external site. This wasn't a targeted attack on the site, but rather an opportunistic finding of information due to a mistake that meant the information wasn't as secure as it should be.

How many people have been affected?

There were documents relating to 329 people on the site. This included a range of identity documents including passports and drivers' licences and, in some cases, completed application forms for the programme.

What is Tuia 250?

The *Tuia - Encounters 250* national commemoration is a programme of events, education and reflection that celebrates Aotearoa New Zealand's Pacific voyaging heritage and acknowledges the first onshore encounters between Māori and Pākehā in 1769-70.

The Voyage Trainee programme gives New Zealanders the opportunity to sail aboard the vessels in the *Tuia 250 Voyage* during October to December of this year.

Do you have confidence in the Ministry?

I am concerned about what has happened and a review is underway.

Are you concerned about the number of privacy and security breaches involving government websites?

Yes, I am and I am seeking assurance from officials that appropriate steps are being taken.

PROACTIVE RELEASE