Submission form

Contact details

Name (Individual and/or organisation): Mike Smith	
Contact name (for organisation):	
Email address:	
Phone (day) (0)	**Phone (mobile) (02)**

Summary of proposals

1. The Department's proposals reflect two complementary drivers. First, users' expectations about how they access BDM information have changed since the access provisions were introduced in 2009. Second, enabling citizens to interact easily with government in a digital environment is a key Government Better Public Services target.
2. In the short to medium term, subject to existing legislative, systems, and technological constraints, the Department will investigate options for enhancing existing online services (eg, improved search functionality). Ultimately, the Department would like to facilitate access to BDM information via an all-of-BDM Internet-based search, pay-for-view, and records access and ordering facility, without compromising individual privacy and security interests.
3. Alongside the specific amendments to the access provisions detailed below, the Department wants to remove remaining legislative barriers to digital and online services (eg, by making language and delivery channels medium-neutral). This will support future enhancements for all BDM services, not just access to BDM information.

The Department proposes to—

General access rules

- Add historical and non-historical BDM indexes, but not full non-historical records, to the BDM information that can be searched online (some information may behind a paywall);
- Authorise unedited historical register images to be made available online (behind a paywall);
- Provide online access to BDM information (beyond an initial high level search) would be subject to evidence of identity established via a RealMe ID, or through another future solution that would enable a verified identity to be asserted online; and
- Allow a user with a verified identity to order a certificate or printout for a non-historical record online.

Do you support the proposals?	Yes ☒	No ☐
Please use this space for any additional comments:		

Historical and non-historical information

- Reduce the time limit that defines historical marriage and civil union information from 80 years to 75 years; and
- Align rules for access to birth information (including information that could be made available through digital and online channels in future) based on when a death record becomes available.

Do you support the proposals?	Yes ☐	No ☒
Please use this space for any additional comments: A further suggestion would be to have authorised online access to death records that are less than the required 80 years. A researcher would have to apply online for an account access number and arrange a password so that they might be able to access records down to say 40 or 50 years. I am not suggesting this sort of change be made to Birth and Marriage records.		

Source documents

- Classify Intention to Marry books as marriage registers, and authorise access in the same way, and subject to the same rules, as apply to solemnised marriage records.

Do you support the proposal?	Yes ☒	No ☐
Please use this space for any additional comments: But have a reference made in another column online that shows which record they are; Marriage or Intent		

Remaining access provisions

Access register; non-disclosure directions; research purposes; disclosure of death information

The Department has no specific proposals. We consider the current rules are appropriate and are working well; the individual privacy and security protections they provide will be integral in the context of the proposed new digital and online access channels.

Do you—	Agree? ☐	Disagree? ☐
Please use this space for any additional comments:		

If you want to comment on any other matter related to the access provisions …

… please use this space for your submission:

I agree with restrictions regarding Birth records as this information could be used nefariously.

When using the online records for research, as I do, and requiring a lot of information regarding past deaths. A simple search is quite fine when it comes to finding a death record for a person with an unusual name, but when one comes up against a common name and all that one has is an initial, and no other real information, then it is an impossibility to reduce the search parameters. Initials do not work !.

My main problem is that the BDM search only tells me that the person died in NZ; end of story. The online database should at least have an extra column that shows the district of the death, or even the district of the cemetery that person is buried in. E.g If a person dies in hospital they do not necessarily get buried in the local cemetery as they could have been from out of town or even out of district. In doing this then it would be more likely that a researcher would be able to locate the cemetery and garner all the information relating to that person that they require.