

Submission form

Contact details

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Summary of proposals

1. The Department 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 be 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

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

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 proposals? Yes

Remaining Access provisions (cut) Disagree

... please use this space for your submission:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the Proposals outlined in the discussion paper dated 21 March 2016.

I am a Past President of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. I have been taking a Tour Party of Genealogists to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and then to the UK each year since 1992.

I have been researching my Family History since 1981 - my husband's New Zealand family and my Australian family. I have been on the Special Scotland's People committee since inception and so have a wide and varied knowledge of BDMs and BMDs from a number of countries.

I have been teaching researching Family History at Community Education Schools in Auckland since 1985. In 2012 I received a Queens Service Medal for my service to genealogy in NZ.

So my involvement with many and varied people in NZ, Australia and the US and UK has been substantial, thorough and sustained. Much of this involvement has been in accessing, studying and working with Civil Registrations in New Zealand and other countries.

My main concern is that the Original, local, Registers should be digitised! THEN, and only then, the next step should be to have access to the original registers online as with Scotland's People.

The system such as used in Scotland's People works well. This is a credits based system where user's can view an historical image for around \$3. A subscription based system would work very well also.

Intention to Marry Notices (ITMs) See my agreement to your proposal

I would like to see access to marriage registrations to marriages 70 years ago. But would be accepting of the 75 years as proposed.

Most important is the return to the original system whereby we had wildcard searches. And we need searches without a surname. Just the latter would be a great improvement. We did have this system for about 3 days when the web page was first available. So it is possible for wild card searches, but this is time and money consuming. Hence a no surname search would be acceptable.

But top of my list is the digitisation of the ORIGINAL registers and the subsequent access to original images of those records meeting the access requirements.

The addition of the location/place in the Historical Index would be another great improvement.

Our Historical BDMs are the envy of many in the genealogical world. Especially the 80 years since birth on the death Indexes.

To make it even better:

Digitize the original registers - this so important whilst we still have them to do so. Did we submit a copy of our new \$5 note to the International competition? NO. We NEED the original registers to be preserved

Drop the marriage year to 70/75 years instead of 80

Bring back the wild card searches on surnames and forenames also

Have a no surname search

Include a place/location in the Historical Indexes

Access to original images for Historical records

Thank you again for this opportunity

Jan Gow