

From: TWM
To: MICA DP Bill Consultation (MICA)
Subject: Feedback on DP Bill

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I would like to submit feedback on a particular case of DP which in my view, is extremely lacking.

Last year I registered a Limited Liability Partnership with ACRA. My personal information as a partner, was required.

I have since realised that for a nominal fee, ANYONE with my company name can pay ACRA for a business profile printout which not only states my full name, but my NRIC, and home address in full and in the clear.

I am also informed by a friend that for a bit more, you can purchase a list of all business entities registered by this person.

And with the personal details of this person, one can go to the IRAS website and purchase a full list of all properties owned by the person, and their valuation.

While I can understand the need for a central "registry" for business information, to provide information for opening of bank accounts etc, I question the ease which anyone can access this information.

It is the same as making a scan of my NRIC and putting it up on the internet for all to see. All the information is there, except my photograph. With this information, one can easily bypass bank phone credit card identity checks. Anyone can come to my home and harass me. A person can conspire with an unscrupulous dealer to register a phone line in my name.

Further to that, I would like to point out that at no point during the application does ACRA verify the information that has been submitted. I did not have to submit a copy of my NRIC to ACRA. Therefore one can simply enter any address one wishes. Whether ACRA subsequently checks this against some national registry I have no idea, but I know many of my clients are walking around with un-updated NRICs and are no longer living in the addresses used to register the NRIC.

During online shopping I have come across an instance whereby the ACRA information was either fraudulent or not updated, and the online seller was not traceable by that means.

Well, this feedback is not meant as a usefulness of ACRA; suffice it to say that I feel that MUCH MORE can be done to protect our information which is registered with ACRA, and I have actually written to ACRA to voice this, but they felt it was not an issue.

Yours truly,
Mr TAN Wee Meng