

Could I just say that the privacy protections you're proposing don't go far enough? They need to also cover the photography that real estate agents do now, and also better protections to keep our data offline completely. Your consultation paper suggests protecting tenants' right to submit paper applications, which is a good thing, but you also need to protect against the information from those paper applications then being put online anyway by office staff. If we're wanting our information kept offline, that should be respected. Likewise for identity documents, I've posted off true copies of my ID documents to real estate agents before, how do I know they haven't turned around and scanned those documents and uploaded them to an online server anyway, without my knowledge or consent? There needs to be a protection for identity documents especially, that they must be stored offline, if at all. Ideally though, they would only be sighted, not stored, by businesses. And there also need to be protections against excessive photography by real estate agents during routine inspections, too. Inspections should only be by sight, not by camera. We need better protections to restrict photography to the empty property only, at the beginning and end of the tenancy only.

On the other points you raise, yes 'no grounds' evictions should be banned, yes tenants should be able to keep pets so long as they don't disturb other residents, yes bond portability should be considered, but no, you shouldn't move to electronic payments only - there should always be alternative methods to pay such as a cash deposit at the bank, cheque or paying in person. If you protect electronic payments, please also protect alternative offline methods, especially at least one way to pay in person with cash. There should always be non-digital options for those of us who value our privacy. I also don't want a digital ID, thankyou (as mentioned in the consultation paper).

Thankyou for this chance to comment on tenancy laws, but the protections you're proposing don't go far enough, especially around privacy issues. Please let us keep our data offline, have it deleted as soon as possible, and ban excessive photography. We are powerless. We need you to legislate those things. Thankyou.