

## Meeting with Xebo, 21 August 2025

<b>Due to MO:</b>	19 August 2025	<b>Reference</b>	HNZ00093399
<b>To:</b>	Hon Matt Doocey, Acting Minister of Health		
<b>From:</b>	Darren Douglass, Chief Information Technology Officer (acting), Digital Services		
<b>Copy to:</b>	n/a		
<b>Security level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Priority</b>	Routine
<b>Consulted:</b>	n/a		
<b>Proactive Release:</b>	This title is proposed by Health NZ for proactive release		

### Contact for further discussion

Name	Position	Phone	1st contact
Darren Douglass	Chief Information Technology Officer (acting)		x
Heath Tolley	Portfolio GM - Digital Enablers & Integration		

### Attachments

**Appendix 1:** Biography

**Appendix 2:** Talking points

## About the meeting

<b>Purpose</b>	You are meeting with Mike Sabin from Xebo who is proposing a new way to store data.
<b>Date</b>	Thursday 21 August
<b>Time</b>	5.10pm to 5.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	6.6 Beehive
<b>Attendees</b>	Mike Sabin, Director and Co-Founder, Xebo Milly Sabin, Co-Founder, Xebo See bios in Appendix 1.
<b>Health New Zealand   Te Whatu Ora officials</b>	Alastair Kenworthy, Group Manager Data and Digital Standards, Planning, Funding and Outcomes Heath Tolley, Portfolio Group Manager – Digital Enablers & Integration
<b>Media</b>	No media are expected
<b>Key points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Xebo is proposing a different way for people to manage their own health information, called “decentralised” or “self sovereign” identity, Data is not kept by the provider, instead it is controlled by the individual.</li></ul>

## Background and context

1. This meeting briefing provides you with information to support your meeting with Mike Sabin, Director and owner of Xebo, and Milly Sabin, Co-Founder. The meeting will explore Xebo’s proposed approach to health record storage and sharing, using a decentralised model to enable individuals to retain control over their health information.
2. Xebo Limited, accessible at [xebo.me](https://xebo.me), was established as a registered company in 2022 by Mike Sabin, who is also its sole shareholder. It is important to note that Xebo Limited has no affiliation with Xebo.ai, a separate and unrelated entity.
3. Mike Sabin is also scheduled to meet Hon Scott Simpson, Minister for ACC, on 21 August.
4. Mike Sabin engaged with officials at the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). DIA referred Mike Sabin and Xebo to Health NZ and officials from Health NZ and ACC met Mike Sabin on 12 August.

## Matters for discussion

5. Xebo is proposing a different way for people to manage their own health information. Instead of health records being stored by practices and hospitals, centralised via government agencies, individuals would hold their own data and choose who to share it with. This approach is called “decentralised” or “self sovereign” identity, meaning the data is not kept by the provider, instead it is controlled by the individual.
6. The concept relies on secure digital tools that help people prove things about themselves, like their age or vaccination status, without handing over all their personal information. These tools would be stored in something like a “digital wallet.” Xebo is also working on a version that doesn’t require a smartphone, which could make it easier for more people to use.
7. Xebo suggests that decentralising health data could:
  - a) Lower the risk of large-scale data breaches.
  - b) Reduce the need for organisations to store sensitive personal data.
  - c) Let people decide exactly what information they share and with whom.
  - d) Make it harder for data to be tampered with or misused.
8. The concept aligns with the government’s Digital Identity Services Trust Framework Act 2023, which supports secure and trusted digital identity systems.
9. Xebo is also thinking about the future of the internet, called the ‘Agentic Web’ where artificial intelligence (AI) agents, like virtual digital assistants, could act on behalf of people online. These agents might book appointments, fill out forms, or interact with government services. To make this safe and trustworthy, there would need to be ways to prove who these digital agents working for and to ensure they are acting in good faith. That is where Mike Sabin considers that Xebo’s identity tools, if developed, could potentially play a role.
10. Xebo has developed a demonstration showing how their system might be used for documents like prescriptions or vaccination records. These could be verified instantly and securely, without needing a person to check them manually.

## Health NZ’s advice

11. Health NZ supports the concept that people should be able to control who can access their health information. For people who are confident using digital tools, a decentralised model like the one Xebo is exploring might be a good way to build consumer trust.
12. During the Covid pandemic some of these mechanisms were used with the Covid vaccine pass and vaccine certificates that enabled people to prove their vaccination status to shops and businesses.
13. Health NZ are aligned to the government’s Trust Framework and are interested in how Xebo services could leverage, or supplement, the digital capabilities Health NZ is implementing.
14. 

16. Health NZ is interested in understanding:

- a) What problems might this kind of model solve for both citizens and government?
- b) How could it fit with or build on the digital capabilities Health NZ is already developing?



## Appendix 1: Biography

Name	Biography
 <p data-bbox="204 748 790 808">Michael Lewis Sabin, Director and co-founder of Xebo</p>	<p data-bbox="818 331 1401 465"><b>Mike Sabin</b> is the Director of Xebo Limited, a New Zealand registered company. Mike is a former police officer, drug educator and New Zealand politician.</p> <p data-bbox="818 483 1401 651">He also founded a business called Private Investigations Northland. Mike was elected to Parliament as MP for Northland in November 2011 and served until he resigned in early January 2015.</p> <p data-bbox="818 669 1409 770">Mike Sabin played a key role in establishing the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court in New Zealand. He lives in Northland.</p> <p data-bbox="818 788 1214 822">Mike is married to Milly Sabin.</p>
 <p data-bbox="204 1263 596 1296">Milly Sabin, Co-Founder of Xebo</p>	<p data-bbox="818 853 1401 913"><b>Milly Sabin</b> has been a real estate agent in Whangārei for over a decade.</p> <p data-bbox="818 931 1401 1032">Milly Sabin is a former CEO of a designer kitchen company with a background in both kitchen design and interior design.</p> <p data-bbox="818 1050 1409 1218">Available biographic information about Milly Sabin says that she is known for her strong negotiation and marketing skills, as well as her innovative use of social media to reach a broad audience.</p> <p data-bbox="818 1236 1214 1270">Milly is married to Mike Sabin.</p>

Appendix 2 has been withheld in full.