



**Rev Wayne Matheson**

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Subject: *Cyber incident affecting the PCANZ*

Greetings

I am writing to you about a matter of concern.

On 30 November, Mercury IT, the external IT provider that our national Church office uses, was the victim of a cyber-attack. The Church is one of a number of their clients impacted.

Mercury IT does not know what Church information may be affected and as I write they are working with their forensic experts and Government agencies to understand the nature and extent of the impact for us. We do know that some of our IT networks have been impacted. Fortunately, we recently had the foresight to move many of our files to a new IT network and we have full access to this. At this time, we do not know if Church data has been compromised, but we know in these kinds of attacks this is a possibility and we await more information. We were not in a position to share this with you earlier, we will keep you informed as we are updated.

I assure you that we take our responsibility to protect the privacy and confidentiality of information you have provided to the Church extremely seriously. We have taken steps to get impacted systems back up and running, we are taking advice from external advisors, and we are pursuing updates from Mercury IT as they find out more. We have notified the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and the New Zealand Government's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT NZ) about this incident.

We pray this matter will be resolved quickly. Our national office continues its work however work that requires access to the national database may be affected and we appreciate your patience.

We understand that this is unsettling news for you, your church, and your community and that you may have questions. We will update you when we know more. You can find all updates on this matter on the Church website: <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/about-us/contact-us/cyber-incident-affecting-pcanz>

The media is reporting on this cyber incident and understandably wants to know more. If you are approached for comment, please direct queries to me.

This incident is a timely reminder of the need for good personal cyber security for all of us. See information on staying safe [here](#) and [here](#).

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