

COVID PASSES

JUNE 2021

The head of Policy and campaigns presented a paper that explored the Government position on vaccine passports and analysed them from a human rights perspective. It looked at concerns surrounding covid-status certification including the evidence base, the impact on public health, the potential for health surveillance and connections to future digital ID systems and the impacts on marginalised communities. Given the significant risks covid-status certification poses, coupled with the availability of alternative, less intrusive measures, the paper proposed that Liberty should oppose proposals to introduce a scheme as set out below.

Policy Council were asked to endorse the following points:

1) That Liberty opposes the roll-out of a mass covid-status certificate scheme which is a pre-requisite for people to use services, including transport, access to shops or live events.

2) While Liberty retains serious concerns about the introduction of any form of scheme, we recognise there may be some narrow employment contexts where requiring proof of coronavirus-status may be necessary and proportionate. These must be tightly limited to avoid mission creep and we have a strong preference for education-based alternatives.

Policy Council endorsed the paper with a view to monitoring the impacts that any employment exemption would lead to as evidence unfolded.