



Irish Council for
Civil Liberties

ICCL: Monitoring rights during the pandemic
18-24 July

COVID-19-RELATED ADVOCACY WORK

The COVID-tracker app-new privacy concerns in light of new findings

The covid-tracker app continues to be widely downloaded, and the HSE and Nearform (the app developers) have been [lauded](#) internationally. However, two data scientists, with whom we developed our [Framework of 9 Principles](#), have discovered serious data protection and privacy issues with the Google tech on which the app relies to function. While the HSE component of the app is transparent, there has been no parallel public scrutiny or governance of the app's Google/Apple components in relation to COVID-19 tracking. These rights concerns extend beyond the HSE's app and affects all Android users. Find our [press release here](#).

The news was covered in the [Irish Times](#); the [Irish Independent](#); the [Irish Examiner](#); [the Journal](#); the [University Times](#); [Tech Central](#) and [breakingnews.ie](#). Dr Stephen Farrell of TCD spoke to Newstalk and ICCL's Policy Officer Olga Cronin spoke to CRC FM.