

TO

Assistant General Counsel  
Northwest Airlines, Inc.  
Dept. #A1180  
5101 Northwest Drive  
St. Paul MN 55111-3034  
U.S.A.

DATE April 6, 2004

OUR REF z2004-0310

CONTACT-PERSON

YOUR LETTER March 30, 2004

YOUR REF

SUBJECT NWA provision of passenger data to NASA

On March 9, 2004 the Dutch data protection authority (*College bescherming persoonsgegevens*, or CBP) asked Northwest Airlines (NWA) for more information about its provision of passenger data to NASA in 2001. The CBP would like to thank you for your response of March 30, 2004.

Based on the information provided by you, the CBP assumes that data of Dutch passengers were indeed provided by NWA to NASA for the scientific purpose of developing a method to identify potential terrorists. Without a further investigation of the case, the CBP is unable to determine whether the data were provided on a justified basis. It does, however, have serious doubts as to whether such was the case. Nonetheless, in view of the pressure on the airline industry at the time, the privacy protections that were in place and NWA's subsequent change of policy the CBP considers this to have been a once-only event that is not worthy of further investigation.

A copy of this letter will be sent to the *Bits of Freedom* foundation, who raised this issue with the CBP. In line with the CBP's publication policy, it will also place an announcement on its website.

I trust to have informed you adequately.

Yours sincerely,

Ulco van de Pol  
vice-president