

P r e s s e release

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Notification of benefits instead of a berlin pass: No data protection for low earners

The Berlin Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information criticizes that people with low income, if they want to use the bus and train at a reduced price, in the event of a must show the original of their notice of receipt of social benefits.

The reason for this is that the citizen registration offices have not been open for months due to the corona pandemic issue more berlin passes. With the berlinpass, Berliners can travel with little

Income etc. Use educational, cultural and leisure time offers at a reduced price or free of charge.

In addition, the berlinpass entitles you to purchase a discounted "Berlin-Ticket S" for the Public transport services.

Expired berlin passes remain valid and from March 1, 2021, the

Citizens' registration offices are gradually issuing berlin passes again. However, the problem persists because also those citizens who were granted benefits before March 1, 2021

and who do not have a berlin pass, continue to present the original of their notification of benefits have to.

Due to numerous complaints, the Berlin supervisory authority has examined the incident and to the responsible Senate Department for Integration, Labor and Social Affairs expressed significant data protection concerns. The Senate Administration acknowledged that the obligation to submit original notifications is not a "clean solution" represent. However, she sees no way of remedying this.

The argument of the senate administration, that this is the case, causes astonishment berlinpass for a voluntary offer and those affected would have the opportunity to use the regular To take advantage of the tariffs offered by the transport companies, given that these because of their low income, they are dependent on these benefits.

Maja Smolczyk:

“I believe that the obligation to disclose extremely sensitive social data is still in place very questionable in terms of data protection. These notices do not contain for this purpose required information about addresses, date of birth and reason and amount of the approved benefits. In contrast to the discreet berlinpass, the eye-catching one reveals Also inform all bystanders that the person concerned receives state benefits. I find it particularly dubious that the Senate administration points out that Those affected would have the choice between purchasing the regular offers or disclosing them their personal data. Data protection must not depend on the income of those concerned

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be dependent. I appeal to the Senate administration to make improvements here in order to To continue to enable those affected to participate in social life.”