Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en
Koninkrijksrelaties

Microsoft Nederland B.V.
T.a.v. Ms. A den Ouden

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Contactpersoon

Kenmerk
[kenmerk verwijderd]

Uw kenmerk

Datum   27 maart 2024

Betreft   Feedback on Private Preview for inbound DANE on Exchange
Online (email security)

Dear Ms A. den Ouden,

We are writing with regard to your Private Preview for inbound DANE in Exchange
Online that the Dutch government participated in and ran from Monday the 8th of
January until Friday the 26th of January 2024. In this letter we share our experience
and our concerns.

Background
We are pleased that our letter dating 22nd of May 2023, see attached, led to a
Private Preview to test-configure DNSSEC/DANE for inbound mail on Exchange
Online for Dutch government mail. We are also pleased to hear that the general
availability is still planned for 2024, despite the delay from March to June 2024.
However, note that you originally communicated year-end 2021 as planned
availability date and we hope no further release delays come up. This would mean
that by mid-2024, your customers within the Dutch government would no longer
be non-compliant and able to meet the mandatory DANE requirement.

Experience Private Preview
Regarding the Private Preview we are pleased with the great support from Microsoft
for setting up and running the Private Preview in early 2024. The cooperation with
Microsoft went smoothly and the overall test experience was positive.

Our colleagues from the central government organization DICTU and municipality
's-Hertogenbosch invested their valuable time to configure and test the
DANE/DNSSEC implementation throughout the Private Preview In addition, our
colleagues from the Netherlands Standardisation Forum were actively involved from
the outset and throughout.

Concerns
We hereby as a result of the Preview Preview share two concerns that we hope to
further discuss with you:

1. UX/UI interface. During the Private Preview the webinterface, UI/UX, was
   unavailable and our teams had to work in PowerShell. We hereby stress the

importance of a UI/UX webinterface for the outrol in June 2024. PowerShell alone will be insufficient for the configuration for a majority of Dutch government entities.

2. DANE business model. During the preview it was mentioned that Microsoft is considering to support inbound DANE only in the most extensive license offerings. We are concerned about this. DNSSEC/DANE are international recognized open security standards for mail exchange and the addition of these standards to your services will increase the security of all Microsoft Exchange users. Offering it as an extra will lead to lower adoption and the risk of ineffectiveness of these email standards, decreasing the overall security of e-mail communication between the Dutch government, companies and citizens. DANE works inbound and outbound parties have configured it and costs will lead to a lower adoption. Ineffectiveness and lower adoption of the standard would diminish the potential gains of the standard. Furthermore, note that outbound DANE is already available for all Exchange Online users. Not supporting inbound DANE for all Exchange Online users will probably lead to unclarity and questions. Given the above, we strongly request you to offer inbound DNSSEC/DANE as a standard setting in Microsoft Exchange.

We look forward to your response and to discuss our concerns further.

CEO Business Operations, also
Chief Information Officer
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