

2 May 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālō 'e Ie lei s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA053-2023/24)

On 3 April 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to the Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

“...would you provide at your earliest convenience any reports or materials held by your organisation:

- 1. setting out and/or summarising how and when your organisation has met, or intends to meet, the commitments to transparency and partnership set out in the Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa | New Zealand;*
- 2. setting out or explaining how decisions made by the organisation are informed by algorithms. This may include without limitation “plain English” documentation of the algorithm/s, information about the data and processes involved, or published information [abut] how data is collected, secured, and stored;*
- 3. that demonstrate or detail how your organisation is delivering clear public benefits through Treaty of Waitangi commitments by embedding a te ao Maaori perspective in the organisation’s development and use of algorithms consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi;*
- 4. that demonstrate or detail how your organisation has, or intends to, identify and consult with people, communities and groups who have an interest in algorithms, including Maaori;*
- 5. that describe how your organisation makes sure data is fit for purpose by identifying and managing bias;*
- 6. showing how privacy, ethics, and human rights are safeguarded by regular peer reviews of algorithms to assess for unintended consequences, and how the organisation acts on this information; and*
- 7. setting out the nominated point of contact for public inquiries about algorithms - together with any internal policies, principles, rules, or guidelines that relate to the above matters.*

Note, the Ministry does not hold any reports or materials in relation to your request. I must therefore refuse your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist. However, I have provided some contextual information in response to your questions, below.

Wellington (National Office)

Level 1, ASB House
101-103 The Terrace
PO Box 833, Wellington 6140
Ph: 04 473 4493
Fax: 04 473 4301

Auckland

9 Ronwood Ave, Manukau
PO Box 97005
South Auckland Mail Centre 2240
Ph: 09 265 3200
Fax: 09 265 3202

Christchurch

Level 1, BNZ Centre
120 Hereford St
Private Bag 4741
Christchurch 8011
Fax: 03 353 9499

While the Ministry is a signatory to the Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand, we are currently focused on responding to the recommendations outlined in the *Public Records Act 2005 Audit Report for the Ministry for Pacific Peoples*, which is publicly available on the Archives New Zealand website here: [Audit Report and CA Audit Letter - Ministry for Pacific Peoples.pdf \(archives.govt.nz\)](#)

The Ministry's Information Management (IM) Strategy, which is in place until 2025, focuses on implementing these recommendations. Once the recommendations have been implemented, the Ministry will create a plan to meet the commitments to the Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand. At this stage, we will also nominate a point of contact for public enquiries about algorithms.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: uia_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Mālō 'aupito



Danilo Coehlo de Almeida
**Deputy Secretary,
Corporate Services**