

29 April 2024

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official information request for information

I refer to your official information request for information in relation to the Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa / New Zealand and the actions taken by its signatories to discharge the signatory commitments set out in the Charter. Your request was received on 3 April 2024.

You requested:

...any reports or materials held by Te Hīringa Mahara:

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 about 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 Māori 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 Māori;
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.

Our response

In response to your first question, attached is our signed 'Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand' (Attachment A - signed Algorithm Charter 2020).

Personal details of staff have been withheld under s9(2)(a) to protect their privacy.

In response to your questions 2-6, Te Hiringa Mahara does not currently employ, and does not anticipate employing in the foreseeable future, algorithms that inform or make decisions. Te Hiringa Mahara is an advocacy and monitoring organisation - we do not provide services to the public. As a result, we do not hold any information that would answer your questions about algorithm use.

We do use code to analyse data for reporting purposes. For example, in our recent reporting we have developed algorithms to analyse mental health data. We are drafting a transparent explanation of this to accompany our public reporting. We have engaged with other agencies to review aspects of this code, and the explanation will be publicly available on our website in due course.

In response to your question regarding nominated personnel, Ella Cullen - Director, Wellbeing System Leadership, Data and Insights is our lead for this work.

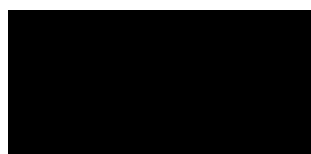
Please note, we publish some OIA responses on our website after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address, or contact details.

I hope you find this information helpful.

This reply addresses the information requested. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this information release, please feel free to contact kiaora@mhwc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Karen Orsborn
Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive

Attachment A - signed Algorithm Charter 2020