



OIA Number: 24 - 168

18 April 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act request for Algorithm Charter of Aotearoa New Zealand

I refer to your email to the Education Review Office dated 3 April 2024 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 as follows:

I note your agency/entity/organisation is listed as a signatory to the Charter at Algorithm charter for Aotearoa New Zealand - data.govt.nz.

To assist me with my research, please 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 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 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.*



ERO does not currently use algorithms within its work, and therefore the organisation does not hold any reports or materials that relate to points 1 to 6 of your query. I therefore refuse points 1 to 6 of your request under section 18(e) as the information requested does not exist.

We continue to actively participate in the Algorithm Charter's community of practice and are aware of our obligations in relation to the Charter should we ever make use of them.

To question 7 if you have any questions or concerns about ERO's use of algorithms, please email info@ero.govt.nz. I refuse the second part of this question on internal policies and guidelines under section 18(e) as the information requested does not exist.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. We do not publish requesters' personal information.

You have the right seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz> or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy France', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeremy France
Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Services
Education Review Office | Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga
National Office | Tari Matua