



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
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Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2024-4974

2 May 2024



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 3 April 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following:

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;

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is enhancing its approach to data, analytics, and information management. In 2023, the NZDF formally adopted a new approach to analytics, and information management which aligns with the Algorithm Impact Assessment by Statistics New Zealand. The NZDF is in the early stages of identifying any algorithms that could require unique internal governance, reporting, and regulation.

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;

The NZDF is currently building its capacity to increase data and information maturity. This includes drafting enterprise wide policy and guidance for how the NZDF uses algorithms to inform decisions.

3. That demonstrate or detail how your organisation is delivering clear public benefits through Treaty of Waitangi commitments by embedding a te ao Maori perspective in the organisation's development and use of algorithms consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi;

The NZDF is committed to meeting its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Kia Eke, the Māori Strategic Framework for the NZDF, makes commitments to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi in data and information policy development (which will include the use of algorithms), and to include Te ao Māori in that development. This forms the basis of our data and information policies, including future policy.

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 Maori;

Data and information algorithm policy development has not reached a stage where stakeholder consultation and engagement have been identified.

5. That describe how your organisation makes sure data is fit for purpose by identifying and managing bias;

The NZDF has approved and is implementing a governance structure for data and information. This structure is being implemented to uplift the maturity of both the management, and the use of data and information across NZDF, which includes identifying and managing bias in its data.

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

Data and information algorithm policy development has not reached a stage where any safeguards can be assessed.

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.

Requests for official information are managed by the Ministerial team and can be sent to ministerialservices@nzdf.mil.nz. Requests for information will then be distributed to the relevant subject matter expert for response.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF