



19 June 2026

s 9(2)(a)

Official information request

Our ref: R001482

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request by the Ministry for Regulation (Ministry) received on 21 May 2026. You requested:

- *What Artificial Intelligence is your Ministry considering implementing in the next year?*
- *What aspects or parts of the business will it be implemented? ie how will the AI be used*
- *Will it's implementation reduce the workload or staff numbers?*
- *What safety and security protocols has it had to pass to be considered acceptable for implementation?*

Our response

No artificial intelligence (AI) tools are being considered for implementation in the next year further to those currently used by the Ministry. As the Ministry is not considering implementing any new AI systems in the next year, we are unable to respond to question two, three, and four of your request, as the information does not exist. Therefore, I am partially refusing your request under section 18(e) of the OIA. However, I have provided information on the Ministry's current use of AI below.

Information on Ministry current AI use

Ministry staff primarily use Microsoft Copilot within a secure M365 environment, supplemented by an approved set of external AI tools for public domain tasks. The Ministry maintains a human-in-the-loop model – Ministry staff currently use AI for assistive capability, but it is not used as an autonomous decision-maker.

While no new AI implementation is planned, the Ministry currently uses approved AI tools in the following ways:

- Submissions analysis and thematic coding
- Research and literature review
- Drafting and refining briefings
- Summarising large volumes of information
- Preparing meeting notes and reports
- Workflow automation
- Supporting Red Tape Tipline analysis and reporting.

The Ministry's internal policy governing the use of artificial intelligence is publicly available on the Ministry for Regulation website: <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/assets/Publication-Documents/20251114-OIA-Response-Approved-AI-tools-use-policies-and-risk-assessments-R001321.pdf>.

AI tools are only approved for use where they meet government security standards (Protective Security Requirements/New Zealand Information Security Manual), pass formal cyber, privacy and risk assessments, operate within strict data handling and classification rules, and support transparent, ethical, and human-in-the-loop use, aligned with public sector and Māori data governance principles. The Ministry's internal policy governing the use of artificial intelligence ensures that AI use is compliant with the Ministry's security policies, which is linked above.

Right of review

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact hello@regulation.govt.nz.

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.

Please note that we may publish this response (with your details removed) on the Ministry for Regulation website.

Ngā mihi

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