



18 August 2026

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Official information request

Our ref: R001573

Tēnā koe [Redacted]

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request by the Ministry for Regulation (Ministry) received on 21 July 2026. You requested the following information on the use, governance and assessment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Automated decision-making systems:

1. *A list of all artificial intelligence systems, machine learning models, and automated decision-making (ADM) tools currently in use, in procurement, or in pilot within the agency, including the name, purpose, vendor/developer, and date of deployment of each.*
2. *A list of all generative AI tools approved for staff use, and copies of any internal policies or guidance governing staff use of generative AI.*
3. *Copies of all Te Tiriti o Waitangi analyses, assessments, or advice prepared in relation to any AI or ADM system in use or in development, including the identity of who prepared them.*
4. *Records of any engagement, consultation, or partnership with iwi, hapū, or Māori organisations regarding the design, procurement, deployment, or governance of AI or ADM systems, including dates, parties, and outcomes.*
5. *Any documents identifying whether Māori data (including data about Māori individuals, whānau, hapū, iwi, or mātauranga Māori) is used to train, fine-tune, test, or operate any AI system, and any governance arrangements applying to that data.*
6. *Copies of any advice, briefings, or policies referencing Māori data sovereignty, Māori Data Governance, or WAI 2522 in relation to the agency's AI or ADM systems.*
7. *Copies of all Privacy Impact Assessments, Algorithmic Impact Assessments, human rights assessments, or equity analyses completed for any AI or ADM system, including any assessment of differential impacts on Māori.*

I have responded to your questions in turn below.

Response to item 1

The Ministry uses Microsoft as its AI vendor and developer, providing Microsoft 365 (M365) Copilot as the Ministry's AI system. The Ministry holds 109 paid M365 Copilot licences, which were deployed to staff in September 2025.

The Ministry maintains a human-in-the-loop model, meaning our staff use AI tools to support their work. Staff ask the questions, review the responses for accuracy and relevance, and decide how or if the final information is used. The Ministry uses AI as a support tool and is not used for, or being

piloted as, an automated decision-making tool. The Ministry is also not procuring AI for automated decision-making purposes. AI supports a range of business functions, including:

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

Response to item 2

The Ministry has approved the following generative AI tools for staff use:

- Microsoft 365 Copilot
- Adobe Express/Sensei
- ChatGPT
- Anthropic
- Gemini
- Perplexity
- Napkin AI
- NotebookLM.

Information about the Ministry's internal policy and guidance governing staff use of AI is publicly available on the Ministry for Regulation website: [20251114-OIA-Response-Approved-AI-tools-use-policies-and-risk-assessments-R001321.pdf](https://www.mfr.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/20251114-OIA-Response-Approved-AI-tools-use-policies-and-risk-assessments-R001321.pdf)

Response to items 3, 4 and 5

These parts of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

Response to item 6

The Ministry has identified its Internal Policy on AI as a document that references Māori data sovereignty and Māori Data Governance in relation to the Ministry's use of AI systems. The Ministry has not identified any advice, briefings, or policies that specifically reference WAI 2522 in relation to its AI or automated decision-making systems.

Protect Māori data sovereignty: The Ministry has an expectation to act in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles. The input and/or production of data and information pertaining to Māori people, language, culture, resources or environments must be done in accordance with the government's Māori Data Governance model and consultation with, or under the advisement of, established Te Tiriti partners to understand and actively manage the impacts of AI for Māori. Ministry staff should be aware that current AI systems may have omissions in authentically representing indigenous cultures. Ministry staff must consult with the Digital and Insights team on appropriate protocols.

The Ministry's AI Policy references the following guidelines:

- <https://data.govt.nz/toolkit/data-governance/maori>
- <https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/public-service-artificial-intelligence-framework>

Response to item 7

We understand this part of your request as seeking a copy of Privacy Impact Assessments, Algorithmic Impact Assessments, human rights assessments, or equity analyses completed for any AI system or ADM system, including any assessment of differential impacts on Māori.

The only information we have found in scope of this part of your request is a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for the Red Tape Tipline system: “Enterprise Data Environment – RTT, Privacy Impact Assessment Report, December 2025”.

I have decided to provide you the summary/conclusions from the PIA below. This approach is consistent with section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, which allows information in a document to be provided in different ways, including as an excerpt or summary.

Summary / Conclusions

People can make a submission through the tipline questionnaire that will be available through the Citizen Space portal. This is done via a webpage from any device.

The Citizen Space tipline questionnaire collects only basic personal information from the submitter (email address, location, whether an individual or organisation) with optional additional personal information (name, employment status, highest formal education level, total households income, age and gender). However, there will be free text fields in the form, and people could include personal information in those.

Submitters could also choose to email submissions directly and include personal information in their email submission.

Submitters are asked if they consent to the Ministry sharing their personal information with other public sector agency as defined in section 7(1) of the Privacy Act 2020, but only if it assists with, act on or otherwise progress the issue raised. If they provide consent, then the Ministry may share information with agencies. If the submitter does not consent, then we will not.

In scenarios where the Ministry is required to share or release the information (for example under the Official Information Act) or is permitted by the Privacy Act (such as to avoid serious harm or criminality), the Ministry will seek legal advice before sharing personal information for such a reason.

There is the possibility that personal information could be provided in free text fields or in emailed submissions. As submissions are received, RTT team members will be reviewing and scanning submissions to check if there is any personal information included in the text and this will be tagged and removed prior to AI tool analysis.

Risk to personal data is by accidentally copying and pasting personal information into the wrong places, where it can be inadvertently shared, or if a submitter includes personal information in free-text fields that is not removed prior to the AI tools analysis.

We are clear on the personal information that we intend to collect and the purpose for which it is being collected, coupled with the level of personal information collected being relatively low. The questionnaire has disclaimers and links to the Ministry's privacy and transparency policy are provided.

System security controls for the Citizen Space platform, M365 and SharePoint are in place – they are owned and managed by Delib and LiquidIT respectively. Both platforms are endorsed for use by public sector agencies. The Ministry has a high level of confidence in the security of these systems. However, confirmation of confidence will be provided once the Citizen Space, M365 and MS Fabric C&As have been completed, prior to the system going live.

We have assessed this project as having a low risk to privacy given the level of personal information collected and the processes in-place around the storage and security of that information.

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



Aisling Risdon

**Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services
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