

Our Ref DOIA 24-258

23 April 2024

[REDACTED]@hotmail.com

**Wellington Office**

Radio New Zealand House

155 The Terrace

PO Box 5501

Wellington 6145

New Zealand

T 0800 665 463

F +64 4 472 2244

E [customersupport@linz.govt.nz](mailto:customersupport@linz.govt.nz)

W [www.linz.govt.nz](http://www.linz.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Response to your official information request**

Thank you for your official information request received on 3 April 2024 regarding the Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa|New Zealand and the actions taken by its signatories to discharge the signatory commitments set out in the Charter.

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) signed up to the Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand (the Charter) in 2020.

While algorithms that are the focus of the Charter are not currently employed at LINZ, it is possible that this will change as we continue to evolve our business processes.

Signing the Charter is a clear signal to New Zealanders that should LINZ use algorithms in the future we will do so responsibly and in ways that maintain transparency of decision making, particularly where the use of algorithms can significantly impact outcomes for individuals or there is a high likelihood many people will suffer an unintended adverse impact.

You requested any reports or materials relating to seven (7) questions. Please find LINZ's response to those questions below:

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.*
  - LINZ does not currently use algorithms that meet the focus of the Charter.
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.*
  - LINZ does not currently use algorithms that meet the focus of the Charter.
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.*

- LINZ does not currently use algorithms that meet the focus of the Charter.
- 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.*
- LINZ does not currently use algorithms that meet the focus of the Charter.
- 5. *That describe how your organisation makes sure data is fit for purpose by identifying and managing bias.*
- LINZ has a number of organisational policies and we undertake annual training on topics such as unconscious bias, privacy, and code of conduct.
- 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*
- LINZ does not currently use algorithms that meet the focus of the Charter; therefore, no peer reviews of algorithms takes place.
- 7. *Setting out the nominated point of contact for public inquiries about algorithms.*
- LINZ's nominated point of contact relating to algorithms is Murray Young, who can be contacted via [ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz](mailto:ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz).

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [ministerialsupport@linz.govt.nz](mailto:ministerialsupport@linz.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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by 31 May 2024

Nāku noa, nā



Chief Digital Officer  
Kaihautū Digital Delivery