

OC230008

19 January 2023



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email dated 11 January 2023, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“I would like to request a list of any:

advisory, governance, ethics, or other boards, committees, groups, panels, or other mechanisms

that provide advice on the policy for and use of artificial intelligence, data science, algorithms, automation, digital technologies, innovation, emerging technologies, or similar areas

managed or contracted by Te Manatū Waka, whether they are comprised of internal employees or external members, and a list of the members (with affiliations) of each group. Contact details are not required.”

Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) routinely uses data science and various digital technologies when performing its core policy, research and analytics functions. The Ministry also has a range of projects and initiatives underway which make use of artificial intelligence, data science, algorithms, automation, digital technologies, innovation, and emerging technologies in various ways. Examples include a project (“Aotearoa Speaks”) to develop a tool that allows community members to engage and submit feedback using voice recordings, and Project Monty, a project to develop an agent-based model of the New Zealand Transport System.

However, the Ministry has not contracted or established any groups or individuals to provide advice on the policy or use of the technologies referred to in your request. Any advice we have received from third parties or internal advisory/steering groups relates only to the delivery of individual projects or initiatives which make use of these technologies for specific purposes rather than advice on how the technologies are used more generally.

Therefore, I am refusing your request under Section 18(e) of the Act as the list you have requested does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman’s website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HAR', followed by a period.

Hilary Penman
Manager - Ministerial Services