

Open Government Partnership New Zealand

National Action Plan 2018-30 June 2021

Progress report to: 30 April 2021

Commitment 8: Review of government use of algorithms

Lead agency:

Government Chief Data Steward, Stats NZ
Working with Government Chief Digital Officer, Department of Internal Affairs

Objective:




To increase the transparency and accountability of how government uses algorithms.

Ambition:

- To ensure New Zealanders are informed and have confidence in how the government uses algorithms – automatic decision-making processes used by computer programmes – to identify patterns in data.

OGP values:

Transparency, Accountability

Milestones		Progress
1	Complete an initial review of existing operational algorithms and their use across a range of government agencies <i>Start/End dates: 1 June 2018 to 31 October 2018</i>	
2	Consider next steps for all-of-government assurance related to the use of algorithms in collaboration with Civil Society representatives <i>Start/End dates: 31 October 2018 to 28 February 2019</i>	
3	Update this commitment (and its milestones) to reflect progress made in previous milestones <i>Start/End dates: 1 March 2019 to 30 June 2021</i>	

Progress key:



some delays



underway



completed

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- The Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand was launched in July 2020, as a result of completing milestones one and two. This was a world-first initiative that continues to generate international interest.
- Across the January-April 2021 period, we have continued to work with government agencies on implementing the Algorithm Charter and share our experiences with interested parties, as requested.

- This included a presentation at the New Zealand Government Lawyers' Network conference, hosting a dialogue with a delegation from Chile who are developing an algorithm transparency initiative, and continuing to participate in the OGP informal open algorithm network.

HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

- Refer below

HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Refer below

WHAT'S NEXT?

- A review of the Algorithm Charter will be conducted after July 2021 to ensure it is achieving its intended purpose of improving government transparency and accountability without stifling innovation or causing undue compliance burden.
- The scope of the review and the Terms of Reference are currently being developed.
- Longer-term work on how to better support agencies implement the Algorithm Charter is being developed, and will take into account recommendations from the review. This will include thinking about how we can continue to keep diverse perspectives and communities involved.
- We are committed to continuing to contribute to the OGP, including the development of a new set of milestones related to the Algorithm Charter, should the Charter be included in the next Action Plan. These would likely align to the outcomes of the review.

LINKS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND MILESTONES ACHIEVED

- [Algorithm Assessment Report](#)
- [Algorithm Assessment Report - Submissions](#)
- [Responding to the Algorithm Assessment Report – Improving Government Algorithm Transparency and Accountability](#)
- [Algorithm Charter for Aotearoa New Zealand](#)