



Meeting with Statistics New Zealand regarding Data Ethics

Date 15 May 2020

Venue Cisco Webex Virtual Meeting

Time 0915-1015 15 May 2020

Attendees KM^{s6(a)}
 KMA^{s6(a)}
 Travis Ancelet Secretariat for the Data Ethics Advisory Board
 Dale Elvy Manger of Stats NZ Systems Policy Team

Background

1. The Data Strategy 2020 was approved in April 2020, which include provisions for KM to develop a Data Ethics Framework for the NZSIS. KM and KMA met with Travis Ancelet and Dale Elvy to discuss the newly formed Statistics New Zealand Data Ethics Advisory Board and how NZSIS can leverage Stats expertise in the data ethics area to assist in developing our own framework.

Items Discussed

Item	Description
	<i>Data Ethics Advisory Board</i>
	The Data Ethics Advisory Board is a new function that falls under Stats New Zealand. Their function is to review project proposals from New Zealand government agencies to provide objective and considered advice regarding data ethics.
	The membership of the group is chosen by submission and is currently chaired by Julia Gerrard. The board meets at a minimum of 4 times a year.
1.	A proposal should be submitted to the board in writing, the board then has some time to do their own research based off the submission.
	The board then meets and the agency has approximately one hour to present their proposal. The board has the ability to bring in expertise as required should a proposal contain detail that is unknown or new to them.
	The board then considers the proposal and provides feedback and advice in a report back to the agency.
	Stats NZ generally publish the reports but are happy to redact and withhold feedback if that

was required etc.

KM noted that if NZSIS put anything to the board we would do so under the premise that the advice be made public.

While NZSIS proposals are generally classified and therefore would not be able to be presented to the board, we discussed the possibility that NZSIS could submit our data ethics framework to the board for consideration.

We also discussed the possibility of having an internal advisory board and having an external appointee from the Advisory Group that can obtain a clearance.

Data Ethics Principles

Dale notes that across government there was no standardisation of ethics frameworks and each agency had its own way to approach this. Dale noted that Stats cannot direct or enforce principles. Dale noted their role was to provide advice and assistance to New Zealand government on good data practice and as such they were happy to provide assistance to NZSIS in developing our framework.

2. Stats NZ had done some work with Customs New Zealand and written a discussion paper regarding the dimensions of security vs. transparency. KMA noted this discussion paper would be extremely useful to help us draft our principles.

Dale further noted that the sticking point with ethics frameworks was how you implement and operationalise them.

Agencies must provide accountability to the individual and make it meaningful and to get that messaging to the data engineers etc.

Stats indicated they are looking to develop training for IE and data scientist staff on data ethics so that they are aware of the issues to consider when developing applications and new systems. KMA noted that we would be interested in this type of training, either as an opportunity to further develop our own staff or as a train the trainer opportunity.

Te Ao Maori Council

3. KMA enquired on the Te Ao Maori council that advises the Data Ethics Advisory Board. Dale said they had made movement in forming the Iwi Chairs Forum and the Data Iwi group; however the board did not as yet have a uniting voice. Larger issues such as Maori data sovereignty and Cloud storage issues were occupying the group currently and were taking long periods of time to resolve.

Should NZSIS have the Data Ethics Advisory Board review our framework the council will also have the opportunity to review , it was noted that this could take some time and that the returning advice may not be uniting.

Actions

Action	Description	Lead
1.	KMA noted our interest in data ethics training for operational staff . We will keep in touch with Stat NZ on how this training progresses.	KMA/KM
2.	KMA requested any documentation tats NZ can provide that could assist NZSIS in developing our framework	KMA
3.	We endeavoured to keep in touch as we progress our framework.	KM/KMA

