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27 January 2022

Scott

fyi-request-17682-77fdc712@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Scott,

Official information request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 23 November 2021 seeking the following information from the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service:

I would like to request copies of all advice received by the NZSIS on the topic of ethical use of data analytics, including from the Stats NZ Data Ethics Advisory Group, Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Office of the Privacy Commissioner, and any other agency which NZSIS has asked for this advice.

On 8 December 2021 you agreed to refine your request to exclude email correspondence. On 17 December 2021 you were advised of an extension to the time limit for responding to this request, due to the consultations necessary to make a decision. Thank you for your patience while we prepared a response.

NZSIS's approach to data ethics

I thought it would be useful to provide you with additional information about the NZSIS's approach to ethical use of data.

Developing a data ethics framework is key to ensuring NZSIS is treating its data with care and making ethical decisions with data.

To date, workshops have been undertaken and a set of draft data ethics principles developed, though these are yet to be endorsed within NZSIS. NZSIS has also engaged with the New Zealand Statistics Ethics Advisory Board for advice. Though not a member of the Data Algorithm Charter due to NZSIS work being largely classified, NZSIS is intending to replicate the aims of the charter to ensure the same level of accountability. Substantial work remains to fully develop the data ethics framework and progresses as capacity and priorities allow.

Response

There are two documents that relate to your request.

1. Record of Meeting: 15 May 2020 meeting with Statistics New Zealand and NZSIS regarding Data Ethics
2. Record of Meeting: 4 August 2020 meeting with Statistics New Zealand, Data Ethics Advisory Group and NZSIS Senior Leadership Team regarding Data Ethics

Copies of these documents are attached. Please note, these documents were written by NZSIS staff as an internal record of meeting for NZSIS purposes, and do not capture the full discussion. Internal record of meetings such as these are not reviewed by the other agencies who attended, and should not be considered official minutes.

The names of NZSIS staff are withheld under section 6(a) of the OIA, as release would prejudice the security of New Zealand.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oa.privacy@nzsis.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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca Kitteridge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Kitteridge

Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Pā Whakamarumarū
Director-General of Security