



Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs

Status Report

Minister for Government

Digital Services

Prepared 19 June 2018 for the period 14 June to 20 June 2018

IN-CONFIDENCE

RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT DIGITAL SERVICES

Updates

Algorithm stocktake

Key message: Stats NZ and the Department are continuing to engage with key agencies to progress the algorithm stocktake

Work on the stocktake of government algorithms continues in partnership with Stats NZ.

Given the timeframe to report to Ministers by the end of July, we have been working with participating agencies to clarify the scope of phase 1 of the stocktake work. This has involved providing updated definitions and guidance about the detail that is sought in each category.

The principal focus of phase 1 is to gather information about government use of operational algorithms which impact significantly on individuals or groups. These automated processes interpret or evaluate information (often using large or complex data sets) that result in, or materially inform, decisions which impact significantly on individuals or groups. Algorithms that incorporate AI or machine learning fall into this definition. Agencies are being asked to provide as complete an overview as possible of these types of algorithms.

We have also asked for information about business rules (simple algorithms that use rules to constrain or define a business activity) and algorithms used for policy development and research (such as tools used to analyse large and varied data sets to identify patterns and trends). These algorithms do not use data analytics to support decisions that can impact on individuals or groups to nearly the same extent as operational algorithms potentially can. Agencies are therefore being asked to provide information illustrating the use of these types of algorithms but not at the same level of detail as for operational algorithms.

In addition to the agencies that have been involved in this project from the outset, including New Zealand Police, this week Inland Revenue confirmed its participation in phase 1 of the work. However, the Ministry of Transport has opted to wait until a future phase (following the phase 1 report) because it does not currently use operational algorithms.

Contact: Andrew Henderson ^{s9(2)(a)}

^{s9(2)(f)(iv)}

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy

Key message: The Privacy Commissioner and the Government Chief Privacy Officer will attend the UNSRP event on Big Data and Open Data consultation event in Sydney in July

The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) created the position of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy (UNSRP) due to the privacy concerns that followed the release of documentation by Edward Snowden in June 2013.

The current holder of the Rapporteur position is Professor Joseph Cannataci, who has been appointed through to July 2021. The UNSRP reports annually to both the HRC and separately to the UN General Assembly (GA).

The work of the UNSRP is directly relevant to both digital and data rights activities. The UNSRP is considering the implications of new technology, information sharing and changing jurisdictional approaches on fundamental human rights, such as the right to privacy. The work of the UNSRP includes the identification of best privacy practices, which may identify areas for practice improvement in New Zealand.

In July 2018, the UNSRP will hold a Big Data and Open Data consultation event in Sydney. The Privacy Commissioner is attending the event. The Government Chief Privacy Officer will also attend the event and provide a report back.

Contact: Russell Cooke ^{s9(2)(a)}

GOVIS Presentation: Developing a Digital Inclusion Blueprint

Key Message: The scope of the Blueprint will be wide ranging

Following meetings with officials, DEDIMAG has stated the Digital Inclusion Blueprint needs to be more than a plan of government action. The group sees the blueprint as an opportunity for government and stakeholders across the community to work together towards digital inclusion. The blueprint will set a direction for all those involved in solving the digital inclusion challenge while also informing how government can support decisions and actions.

The Office of the GCDO is working with the DEDIMAG to co-ordinate the development of the blueprint, with a draft planned to be complete by the end of July. You will be referencing the blueprint in your speech to GOVIS later this week.

Contact: Kirkpatrick Mariner ^{s9(2)(a)}

Modernising Voting - Online voting trial for local elections

Key Message: Some councils remain keen to conduct an online voting trial in 2019, but the enabling regulatory framework will not be in place in time

^{s9(2)(f)(iv)}

The National Archival and Library Institutions Ministerial Group

Key Message: The first meeting of the National Archival and Library Institutions (NALI) Ministerial Group was on 28 May 2018.

The NALI Ministerial Group met for the first time on 28 May 2018. A key point raised of relevance to your Government Digital Services portfolio is the importance of the digitisation of records held by Archives New Zealand, the National Library and Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision.

Amendments to the Terms of Reference for the NALI Ministerial Group were also discussed. The Terms of Reference have now been finalised and are publicly available. On 13 June 2018, the Co-Chairs of the NALI Ministerial Group (Minister of Internal Affairs and the Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage) issued a media release announcing the NALI Ministerial Group's work programme.

The next meeting of the NALI Ministerial Group is on 25 June 2018. The meeting will consist of a tour of Archives New Zealand and a brief discussion of papers provided prior to the meeting. Ahead of this meeting, the offices of the Co-Chairs will provide you with the meeting papers. We will provide you with a separate briefing with information on the previous meeting and upcoming meeting of the NALI Ministerial Group.

Contact: Ruth Fischer-Smith s9(2)(a)

RealMe targets secondary school students at Careers Expo Wellington

Key message: The Careers expo is an opportunity to inform students about the ways they can use RealMe

Officials will be attending the Wellington Careers Expo at the TSB Arena on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 June 2018. Organisers expect the Expo to be attended by more than 7,000 students. The Expo provides an opportunity to educate secondary school students and careers advisors of the benefits in obtaining a RealMe verified identity for applying for a student allowance, opening a bank account, enrolling to vote and applying for their first adult passport. RealMe also attended similar events in Christchurch and Auckland in recent months.

Contact: Tim Waldron ^{s9(2)(a)}

IPANZ Awards

Key message: Three projects from the Office of the GCDO have been short-listed for IPANZ awards

The Service Innovation Lab, the Accelerating Public Cloud project and the D5 Digital Government Showcase entries have been shortlisted for the Deloitte IPANZ public sector excellence awards. Winners will be announced on 25 July in Wellington.

The entry for the Service Innovation Lab was submitted on the basis the Lab demonstrated the driving and delivery of a collaborative work space and culture within which government agencies, NGOs and the private sector are working together to design integrated public services.

The entry for the Accelerating Public Cloud project was nominated on the basis it demonstrated improving public value through business transformation, and the D5 Digital Government Showcase for innovation in digital government.

The award for excellence in achieving collective impact recognises outstanding collaborative effort and performance, shared accountabilities and achievement of joint results for New Zealand and New Zealanders across clusters of agencies. Projects recognised under this award will enhance government's engagement with communities and the delivery of accessible and responsive services to New Zealanders.

Contact Darryl Carpenter ^{s9(2)(a)}

Environment scanning and topical issues

Reuse of Open Data in Government Websites

Key message: The Office of the GCDO successfully gains funding from the Common Web Platform (CWP) funding pool

As providers of the data.govt.nz product platform, the Office of the GCDO recently submitted a proposal to the CWP development funding pool to integrate CWP with New Zealand's open data "front door", data.govt.nz.

The allocation of funding from the CWP development pool is based on votes from contributing agencies for technical development activities that will add most value to the product and the system. The pool benefits agencies through collaboration of new features, reduced duplicate spend and promoting open source.

The data.govt.nz submission received the highest number of votes from participating agencies in this quarter's round of agency voting.

Proposed features to be tested with users include:

- Public open data stocktakes in machine readable, open standard format;
- Automated updates of data listed by agencies on data.govt.nz;
- Searchable open data registers;
- Data visualisations and charting;
- Forms fields populated by centralised open data lists;

Discussions are underway with the local vendor supporting CWP to schedule the work.

Contact: Rex Drummond ^{s9(2)(a)}

Future of work: Use of algorithms in Finland

Key message: Finland is embracing the growth of artificial intelligence, automation, and robotics to prepare future generations

The Director General at the Finnish National Agency for Education, Olli-Pekka Heinonen has recently discussed how his government is exploring how Finland's 2.5 million workers will be supported with the labour market turmoil brought on by automation and global trends.

They are preparing to pilot a new tool that uses an algorithm to predict when users' skills are likely to become outdated, and suggest routes to more sustainable employment. This will be one of the services provided by their Public Service Virtual Assistant Aurora. The Service will search for the best information about training opportunities, student support, student housing, or co-ordination of work and training.

Examples like this of where digital innovation is being applied in practice will be leveraged for the storytelling of the Digital Government Strategy.

Contact: Graeme Osborne ^{s9(2)(a)}

Capability development: Gamification of learning

Key message: Games can help us understand complex ideas

Technical themes such as artificial intelligence, blockchains, and virtual reality can come across as exclusive to similarly technical audiences, but in a digital world it's important that everyone can appreciate the value and risks of emerging technologies.

In a bid to make technology easier to grasp gamification is being used. Several games have emerged around professional learning, enabling players to engage different parts of their brains in order to grasp the implications of a digital world in a fun and inclusive environment. Examples include:

- Megatrend Mashup – disruptive technologies card game that promotes experimentation to solve real problems, created by the Office of the GCDO;
- Datopolis – Open Data board game concept, created by the Open Data Institute;
- Legislate?! – a board game to teach UK civil servants how a bill is created, debated, and implemented, created by the UK Cabinet Office.

In the spirit of openness and sharing, many of these games are openly available online through channels such as GitHub. While these games are available digitally, the preferred medium is a physical game to promote the social aspects of learning and ways of working.

Contact: Graeme Osborne ^{s9(2)(a)}

Tim Occleshaw

Deputy Government Chief Digital Officer

RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT DIGITAL SERVICES

RELEASED BY THE MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT DIGITAL SERVICES