

# Open Government Partnership New Zealand

## National Action Plan 2018-2020

### Progress report to: 30 June 2020

#### 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 31 March 2019</i>	

Progress key:



some delays



underway



completed

#### WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

- We have begun work to ensure that data ethics are embedded at all levels of the government analytics workforce, through improvements in training and professional development for data analysts and decision makers.
- We have consulted with New Zealanders and civil society on a draft Algorithm Charter that enables government agencies to make a specific public commitment to the transparent and accountable use of algorithms and other

advanced data analytics techniques. Information was made available via a media release from the Minister of Statistics and shared on [www.data.govt.nz](http://www.data.govt.nz).

- A summary of public submissions on a draft Algorithm Charter was published on [www.data.govt.nz](http://www.data.govt.nz).
- We are considering next steps and expect to announce a tool for all-of-government assurance related to the use of algorithms between July – August 2020. We anticipate being able to update this commitment (and its milestones) to reflect progress made.

#### HOW WE ARE INCLUDING DIVERSE VOICES

- Refer above

#### HOW WE ARE KEEPING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INFORMED

- Refer above

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

- We are providing advice to Ministers about developing government's response to the algorithm assessment report and working with government agencies on implementation.

#### 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](#)
- [Draft Algorithm Charter](#)