

Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



09 MAR 2023

Jane

fyi-request-21901-50e67fb4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 2023-072

Tēnā koe Jane

Official Information Act request relating to Agenda 30, Artificial Intelligence, and 5G towers

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 23 February 2023. Your request asked:

"I would like to know:

- how the NZ government is implementing Agenda 30? What specific plans do you have in place to achieve this?*
- why is NZ the pilot country for AI? What measures are you taking to implement AI? What is the 10 year plan for bringing AI into our community and what will life look like for kiwis eg "smart cities?" And NEC collaborations?*
- what is the purpose of the 5G towers and phased array beam-forming in NZ? What is this technology being used for currently?"*

We have interpreted Part 1 of your request relating to "Agenda 30" to be about the United Nations 2030 Agenda concerning Sustainable Development. This part of your request is more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). Accordingly, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer Part 1 of your request to MFAT.

MFAT has the usual time limits under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on this part of your request.

Part 2 of your request asks about artificial intelligence (AI). We can advise you that New Zealand is not "the pilot country" for artificial intelligence. The remainder of this part of your request relates to implementation of artificial intelligence across New Zealand. Artificial intelligence can have broad and different interpretations. Several different government agencies and Ministers are involved with policy relating to artificial intelligence, including its application and development. This office does not hold specific information relevant to this part of your request which is refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the basis that the information is not held.

There is some relevant information publicly available that you may be interested in. Government Information Services provides information on the algorithm charter for Aotearoa New Zealand at: data.govt.nz/toolkit/data-ethics/government-algorithm-transparency-and-accountability/algorithm-charter. In addition, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) provides information on the digital economy at: www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/digital-economy. To the extent your request is for the information provided here, it is declined under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information is publicly available.

The final part of your request relates to 5G towers. You asked about the purpose of use of this technology. The Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor provided information about the roll out of 5G in Aotearoa New Zealand. This information was first provided in July 2020. You can access this information on the Chief Science Advisor's website at: www.pmcscs.ac.nz/topics/5g-in-aotearoa-new-zealand. This part of your request is declined under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information is publicly available.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Kirton', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Andrew Kirton
Chief of Staff