



30 June 2026

Will Evans

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Official information request

Our ref: R001495

Tēnā koe Will

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request, which was received by the Ministry for Regulation (Ministry) 25 May 2026. You requested:

“I'd like to OIA request copies of reports and briefings on the use of AI in government.”

On 23 June 2026, we notified you of an extension of the time to make our decision to 30 June 2026.

Response

We have interpreted your request as seeking copies of ministerial reports and briefings prepared by the Ministry for Regulation.

Information partially released

The reports or briefings that we provided to the Minister for Regulation (Minister) or his Office relating to our use of artificial intelligence (AI) are listed in **Table 1** below. Copies are enclosed in **Appendix A**.

Table 1. Reports or briefings prepared by the Ministry

Item	Date	Document	Decision
1.	13/06/2025	MFR2025-156: Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Ministry's Work	Released in full
2.	20/05/2026	MFR2026-080: Promoting responsible AI – guidance for regulators ¹	Partially released, with some information withheld under s 9(2)(a)

Information released as extracts or summaries

We are also releasing extracts from our weekly reports that contain information relevant to your request. This approach is consistent with section 16(1)(e) of the OIA, which allows information in a document to be provided in different ways, including as an excerpt or summary. The extracts are shown in **Table 2**.

¹ Note: the Ministry's AI guidance for regulators is available on the Ministry's website: <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/for-regulators/resources-for-regulators/ai-guidance-for-regulators/>.

Table 2. Weekly report extracts

MFR2025-248: Ministry for Regulation weekly report - 05-09-2025

National Regulators Community of Practice Conference

The National Regulators Community of Practice (NRCoP) Conference brought together regulators and academics from across Australia and New Zealand and provided insights directly relevant to the Ministry's aim of improving regulatory quality and efficiency.

Noting your attendance at the conference dinner where you gave a speech, Gráinne Moss closed the conference on a panel about stewardship and better regulation, emphasising the value of fixing small issues that compound over time, not just large reforms.

The key insights from the conference were:

- **Efficiency and duplication:** Fragmentation across regulators is a shared problem. Other jurisdictions are pursuing shared tools, digital platforms, and joint oversight to cut costs and speed up decisions.
- **Innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Regulators are trialling AI for triage, licensing, and complaints handling. Lessons: pair innovation with transparency and accountability, not red tape. Productivity & trust: Regulation can enable growth by creating certainty and fair competition. International peers stressed measuring impact not just in metrics but in real improvements to people's lives.
- **Leadership and culture:** Capability gaps remain; leadership signals and culture shape risk appetite and regulatory behaviour more than structural reform.

Implications for the Ministry

- Prioritise tools that lift efficiency across multiple regulators (shared templates, digital platforms, common standards).
- Back innovation pilots like sandboxes, with simple evaluation to test results quickly.
- Keep pushing for leaders' accountability in regulatory practice, as capability and culture drive outcomes.

MFR2025-319 Ministry for Regulation weekly report – 21-11- 2025

AI in regulation roundtable

On 6 November 2025, the Ministry invited 32 agency leaders to a roundtable discussion about opportunities and obstacles for AI in regulatory practice. This was in the context of our current work to develop a guidance paper for regulatory leadership teams on AI adoption. The idea of the roundtable came from discussions with the regulatory group at the Department of Internal Affairs.

The participants were overwhelmingly positive about the roundtable as it helped to facilitate stronger collaboration between agency leaders as they progress responsible AI opportunities in regulation. Dr Kate Conroy (Queensland University of Technology, Royal Australian Air Force) joined us virtually to lead off the roundtable with an overview of where other jurisdictions are at, including examples of how they are creating value, ethical frameworks, and learnings from mistakes already made. We are reviewing the roundtable material and will work with other agencies, including the Government's Chief Digital Officer, on regulatory-specific opportunities and risks.

The roundtable is part of work we have started on gathering international, academic, and local considerations and examples of AI in regulation in order to create clarity and enthusiasm in the sector. We will determine the optimal way to showcase this to the sector in the new year. As this work progresses, we will update you on proposed product(s) for release around the use of AI in regulation.

MFR2026-054: Ministry for Regulation weekly report - 13-03-2026*AI in regulation – regulatory leaders showcase*

The Ministry for Regulation, in partnership with MartinJenkins, co-hosted an in person AI regulatory showcase on 12 March 2026 for senior leaders from across New Zealand's regulatory agencies.

The event was organised as part of the Ministry's role in convening, influencing, and strengthening system wide regulatory capability, particularly in relation to innovation and the use of emerging technologies.

The showcase focused on practical, real world applications of AI in regulatory settings. Regulators already using AI tools, alongside specialist AI technology vendors working with regulators, shared demonstrations, lessons learned, and insights on risks and what has worked in practice. The event was well attended and generated strong engagement, reinforcing demand from regulators for system-wide collaboration and clearer guidance in this area.

The draft AI guidance for regulators is scheduled for publication in April 2026, and your office will be briefed ahead of its release.

MFR 2026-072: Ministry for Regulation weekly report - 02-04-2026*Mapping New Zealand's Regulatory Landscape*

We have identified and collected information about 259 entities in the regulatory landscape.

The information has been collected from a range of sources, including the entities' annual reports, New Zealand's legislation database and information we hold in our own database.

We are currently carrying out an AI-assisted analysis of that information using a set of 24 metrics, so that we can draw insights to drive future work. Those metrics cover a range of different angles including, for example, FTE numbers, institutional form and regulatory powers.

MFR2026-110: Ministry for Regulation weekly report - 22-05-2026*Artificial Intelligence in Regulatory Practice Guidance*

A press release from you announcing the soon to be published Ministry AI guidance for regulators, Responsible AI in Action, will be issued during the week of 25 May 2026. We have received high demand for this guidance since the Ministry's AI in regulatory practice event in March, particularly from regulators who expressed interest in innovation through AI but are unsure where to start.

The guidance is part of a suite of products that different audiences can engage with in the way that suits them: the full guidance, a four-page summary, a bite-size modular series on specific topics, and a set of videos.

This week, we have provided a memo outlining the Ministry's approach to promoting the guidance, along with copies of the guidance materials for discussion on 26 May 2026.

Information in oral briefings

On 19 May 2026, Ministry officials met with the Minister for Regulation and his Office.

Officials demonstrated the data environment and insights that were used by the Regulatory System Capability team in completing a review to map New Zealand's regulatory systems.

Information in published regulatory review reports

In May 2026, the Ministry published *The state of New Zealand's regulatory systems* on its website²: Page 8 of the report contains the following explanation:

Use of AI tools

We used AI tools to support data ingestion and analysis, in line with *Responsible AI guidance for the public service: GenAI*.² The review team validated all AI outputs to make sure they are accurate and appropriate.

The Ministry also used AI in the Telecommunications review - *Summary of Engagement: What the Telecommunications Regulatory Review heard through engagement* - published on the website³. Page 3 of the report contains the following explanation:

3. Use of AI

The Ministry has used Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to support this review, in line with the Government Chief Digital Officer's Responsible AI Guidance for the Public Service: GenAI. AI (Copilot) was used to support submissions analysis and some aspects of the preparation of this report. The Ministry has reviewed all content developed using AI tools to ensure it is accurate.

Information in published OIA responses

As part of our commitment to transparency, we proactively publish responses to various information requests that we receive. The OIAs listed in **Table 3** on the next page relate to the Ministry's use of AI, and we consider them relevant to your request.

Table 3. OIA responses relevant to your request that are published on the Ministry's website

Item	Document	Website address	Withholding ground
1.	Response to OIA request R001432 : Internal digital infrastructure, cloud services, and AI tools	https://www.regulation.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/5-april-2026-oia-response-internal-digital-infrastructure-cloud-services-and-ai-tools-r001432/	s 9(2)(a)
2.	Response to OIA request R001321 : AI tools, use policies and risk assessments	https://www.regulation.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/14-november-2025-oia-response-approved-ai-tools-use-policies-and-risk-assessments-r001321/	s 9(2)(a)
3.	Response to OIA request R001037 : Use of AI in submissions analysis	https://www.regulation.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/19-august-2025-oia-response-use-of-ai-in-submissions-analysis-r001037/	s 9(2)(a) s 9(2)(g)(i) s 9(2)(h)
4.	Response to OIA request R00979 : Use of AI in submissions analysis, policies and safeguards	https://www.regulation.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/14-july-2025-oia-response-use-of-ai-in-submissions-analysis-policies-and-safeguards-r00979/	s 9(2)(a)

² <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/assets/Publication-Documents/The-state-of-New-Zealands-regulatory-systems.pdf>

³ <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/assets/Publication-Documents/Appendix-1-Summary-of-Engagement.pdf>

Item	Document	Website address	Withholding ground
5.	Response to OIA request R00973 : Large language model – Regulatory Standards Bill discussion document	https://www.regulation.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/8-august-2025-oia-response-large-language-model-regulatory-standards-bill-discussion-document-r00973/	s 9(2)(a)

Before proactively releasing documents, Ministry officials consider any potential redactions as if they were being released under the OIA. This includes redacting information where there are grounds for withholding under the Act, subject to consideration of whether there are any public interest reasons favouring release which outweigh the reasons for withholding.

There is some information in the proactively released material listed above that was redacted consistent with the provisions for withholding information under the OIA. Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified and where information was withheld, no public interest considerations were identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding the information.

This consideration applies equally to information that has been withheld in Appendix A under section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Information published in the digital government website

For other relevant information not prepared or produced by the Ministry, you may wish to visit the digital government website: <https://www.digital.govt.nz/>. It contains a wide range of information on digital transformation across the public service, including the use of artificial intelligence.

Note that since 2023 to date, the Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) has surveyed organisations in the public service about current and planned government use of AI. The results of this annual research about AI use in the public service are available here:

<https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/research-ai-public-service>.

Right of review

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact hello@regulation.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.

Please note that we may publish this response (with your details removed) on the Ministry for Regulation website.

Ngā mihi



Aisling Risdon

**Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services
Ministry for Regulation**