

18 July 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Bay of Plenty Times/Rotorua Daily Post
[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-12951

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 20 June requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *How the ministry utilises ChatGPT or similar language models in its operations.*
- *The specific tasks or purposes ChatGPT is used for.*
- *How ChatGPT is integrated into the ministry's workflow and processes.*
- *Any internal correspondence, assessments or evaluations of the accuracy and effectiveness of ChatGPT's responses in various operational contexts.*
- *Any limitations or ethical considerations associated with the use of ChatGPT by the ministry, especially concerning privacy, data security, or potential biases in responses.*

Additional questions:

- *How does the ministry plan to keep the public informed and address any questions or concerns regarding the use of ChatGPT in its services?*
- *Are there any guidelines or policies in place regarding the use of ChatGPT by staff?*
- *Has the ministry sought external or independent assessments of ChatGPT's performance, effectiveness, or any potential risks associated with its use?*

I will address your queries separately, as appropriate:

- *How the ministry utilises ChatGPT or similar language models in its operations.*
- *The specific tasks or purposes ChatGPT is used for.*
- *How ChatGPT is integrated into the ministry's workflow and processes.*

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency does not utilise Chat GPT or any other similar language models.

- *Any internal correspondence, assessments or evaluations of the accuracy and effectiveness of ChatGPT's responses in various operational contexts.*

No internal assessments or evaluations have been undertaken on the effectiveness of Chat GPT's response in various operational contexts, and there is no correspondence relating to such. This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act because the documents alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

- *Any limitations or ethical considerations associated with the use of ChatGPT by the ministry, especially concerning privacy, data security, or potential biases in responses.*

As we do not use Chat GPT at Waka Kotahi, there has not been any consideration of the use of ChatGPT or other language models.

- *How does the ministry plan to keep the public informed and address any questions or concerns regarding the use of ChatGPT in its services?*

While we do not currently use Chat GPT or similar language forms as an Agency, we will respond to any concerns regarding their use through the normal channels, as they arise.

- *Are there any guidelines or policies in place regarding the use of ChatGPT by staff?*

There are policies and guidelines to advise staff what can and cannot be used on Waka Kotahi devices and systems. Staff have been advised not to use ChatGPT or similar language models.

- *Has the ministry sought external or independent assessments of ChatGPT's performance, effectiveness, or any potential risks associated with its use?*

No.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse parts of this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Brendan Barrett
Chief Information Security Officer