

OT-OIA-2026-0171

12 June 2026

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Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email, received on 20 May 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on what artificial intelligence (AI) Oranga Tamariki is considering implementing in the next year. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have responded to each part of your request below.

What Artificial Intelligence is your Ministry considering implementing in the next year?

What aspects or parts of the business will it be implemented? ie how will the AI be used

Please see **Appendix A** for a table noting the AI initiatives that have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented at Oranga Tamariki. This table lists the initiatives, their purpose, the problem they address, and their inputs and outputs.

Most of the AI initiatives in the attached table have been implemented in the current financial year. The remainder will be implemented in the 2026/27 financial year, and Oranga Tamariki is currently investigating other new AI initiatives that could be delivered in that timeframe.

Will it's implementation reduce the workload or staff numbers?

Oranga Tamariki is not currently implementing AI tools for the purpose of reducing staff numbers. Instead, our AI initiatives are focused on enhancing productivity and strengthening assurance, rather than replacing roles.

What safety and security protocols has it had to pass to be considered acceptable for implementation?

All AI tools pass through a set of stringent cybersecurity certification and accreditation (C&A) processes and privacy impact assessments. They are also governed by a formal Steering Committee, supported by a working group.

Furthermore, Oranga Tamariki has published an Acceptable Use of AI Systems and Services policy, that includes consideration for ethics, copyright, and transparency. Every AI tool is then first implemented as a limited user pilot before being deployed widely.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a series of loops and a final downward stroke.

Nicholas Pole
Deputy Chief Executive
People Culture and Enabling Services

Appendix A

System	Purpose and the problem it addresses	Inputs	Outputs
MS Copilot Chat	General purpose AI chat that provides basic integration with MS Office tools to support day to day activities such as meeting minutes, documentation generation assistance and summarisation. This helps to improve staff productivity.	MS Office documents specifically uploaded such as meeting transcripts. Or office documents that are open. And user prompts.	MS Office documents and prompt responses including text, images, etc.
MS Copilot for Security	Provides functionality to support the analysis of cybersecurity events. This helps to improve staff productivity and enhances security effectiveness.	Various security repositories and user prompts.	Prompt responses including analysis.
MS Sentinel	Provides monitoring and machine learning analysis of very large volumes (millions) of cybersecurity logs from across the enterprise to identify threats.	SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) logs from various applications, platforms, devices, network, etc.	Signals potential threats from analysis of the logs to security staff.
AI based tagging in Adobe Acrobat Pro	AI assists the tagging for PDF document for accessibility published on our website.	PDF documents in Acrobat Pro.	Tagged PDF documents
Databricks Assistant	Assists the development of code for analysis and reporting that enhances staff productivity.	User prompts in the Databricks development tool.	Programming language code.
AI Agent for the Practice Centre	Enables staff to easily access policy guidance from Ministry's websites; this in turn enables consistent practice, prioritising tamariki safety and saving kaimahi time. This will be implemented as a Pilot in June 2026, with wider rollout in the 2026/27 financial year.	User prompts in keywords on policy in the AI Agent.	Copilot based Agent
MS 365 Copilot Enterprise	Same as "MS Copilot Chat" above but provides more seamless integration with MS Office tools, and greater access to internal information including SharePoint and OneDrive. Currently this is implemented as a limited user pilot; a wider release is planned in 2026/27 financial year subject to business case.	MS Office documents including SharePoint, emails, calendar, etc the user has rights to access.	MS Office documents and prompt responses including text, images, etc.