

26 JUL 2019



[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 20 June 2019 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Does Oranga Tamariki currently deploy any operational algorithms for use in operational decision-making? If so, does it use this information to match children with caregivers? If so, what are the characteristics of the children and of the caregivers that provide this match?*

No, Oranga Tamariki does not use algorithmic profiling to make operational decisions about whether to investigate a child's circumstances or make decisions about the care and protection situation of a child. We have no current plans to explore this further.

In 2016, the Ministry of Social Development commissioned a project relating to the use of statistical risk modelling within intake decision making at the former Child, Youth and Family. The report from this project is available on our website at the following link:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/research/latest-research/helping-social-workers/>.

Additionally, we have previously responded to two similar requests made under the Act. These responses are available on our website at the following website addresses:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/20180326-Algorithmic-profiling.pdf>

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/OIA-responses/reports-documents/20171016-Enhancing-Intake-Decision-Making-Trial-Report.pdf>.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz. If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Groom', written in a cursive style.

Steve Groom

General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services