

Reference: RFI 1805018

Request:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about the use of any algorithms or machine-learning systems by your local authority.

Specifically, I am asking the following:

- 1. Is your organisation using any algorithms and/or artificial intelligence software in the process of delivering public services?
 - North Tyneside Council uses Alteryx software, which includes the functionality to build and use algorithms for the purpose of delivering public services.
- 2. If Yes, please provide details:
 - (i) Of the algorithms or artificial intelligence software you use; Alteryx, Tableau and QlikSense
 - (ii) Of whether you use a commercial product or whether you have developed your own system;
 - Alteryx, Tableau and QlikSense
 - (iii) Of the purpose for which the algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software operates;
 - Alteryx and Tableau are used to extract, transform and load data from a variety of systems in order to support decision making.
 - At this stage, algorithms are used to automate existing processes, such as to calculate management information.
 - (iv) Of the decisions the algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software is asked to make or assist;
 - It supports decisions by management, at all tiers of the organisation
 - (v) Of the type, classification and amount of data that the algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software uses in the decision making process;

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This software is used to support decisions across the organisation, so the full range of data that the Council uses on a day to day basis is included within the software.

- (vi) Of the process by which the decision made or assisted by the algorithm is subject to human review;
 - All work is to support a human make a decision
- (vii) Of the process by which you inform an individual that they have been subject to a decision made or aided by an algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software?
 - No individual will be subject to a decision made or aided by an algorithm. The work in North Tyneside is focused on supporting management information
- (viii) Of the process by which a member of the public can challenge a decision that has been made or aided by an algorithm and/or artificial intelligence software;

See response above

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