

9(2)(a)

4 June 2026

Dear 9(2)(a)

## Re: Official Information Act Request: AI Implementation

Thank you for your email on 21 May 2026 in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. In summary, you requested:

1. *What Artificial Intelligence is your Ministry considering implementing in the next year?*
2. *What aspects or parts of the business will it be implemented? le how will the AI be used*
3. *Will it's implementation reduce the workload or staff numbers?*
4. *What safety and security protocols has it had to pass to be considered acceptable for implementation?*

In response to your request:

EECA currently is utilising AI as a personal digital assistant tool for staff; it is not connected to EECA's systems or services. We are currently exploring a range of potential additional use cases for artificial intelligence across the organisation. Scoping and assessment work is still in progress, and no decisions have been made at this time on the implementation roadmap for next year. EECA intends that any implementation of AI will provide efficiency gains and/or improve citizen experiences. We do not anticipate a reduction in staff numbers as a result of AI implementation in the next year.

EECA applies a range of security and compliance frameworks to ensure the security of its deployed systems and tools. These frameworks would also apply to any AI-related tools or approaches. This includes the New Zealand Information Security Manual and guidance issued by the Government Chief Digital Officer.

EECA would also consider obligations and implications relating to data sovereignty, the Privacy Act, the Official Information Act, and the Public Records Act in relation to any use of AI.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/news-and-corporate/official-information/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Murray Bell  
**Group Manager, Policy and Regulation**