

Date: 16/09/2022

Our Reference: FOIA-2022-082

RE: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write in response to your Freedom of Information request, dated 31/08/2022, which you requested:

“Please publish any guidance you offer to police forces and officers on policies and standards for the evaluation of products and services and technology using AI, including the technical specifications for tools and techniques to assess compliance with those policies and standards.

In particular, please publish the technical specifications or requirements for tools and techniques for measuring bias in AI systems included in such guidance.

For clarity under the term "AI" I mean the term as defined in the proposed EU AI Act: ‘Any software that is developed with one or more of the techniques and approaches listed in Annex I and can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, generate outputs, such as content, predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing the environments they interact with.’ where Annex 1 envisages three specific techniques and approaches for AI: ‘machine learning approaches’, including supervised, unsupervised and reinforcement learning, using a wide variety of methods including deep learning; ‘logic and knowledge-based approaches’, including knowledge representation, inductive (logic) programming, knowledge bases, inference and deductive engines, (symbolic) reasoning and expert systems; and, ‘statistical approaches’, Bayesian estimation, search and optimisation methods.’”

Decision

When a request for information is made under FoIA 2000, a public authority has a general duty under section 1(1) of the Act to inform an applicant whether the requested information is held. There is then a general obligation to communicate that information to the applicant.

In line with section 1(1) of the FoIA, I can confirm the College of Policing does not hold the information you require.

Yours sincerely,

James Rose, Legal Advisor
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College of Policing
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Appendix A

Your right of review

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have a right to request an internal review if you are dissatisfied with our handling of your request. Review requests should be made in writing (by email or post) within 40 working days from the date of our original response. We will aim to respond to your review request within 20 working days.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

If, after lodging a review request you are still dissatisfied, you may raise the matter with the ICO. For further information you can visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>. Alternatively, you can contact them by phone or write to them at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 0303 123 1113

