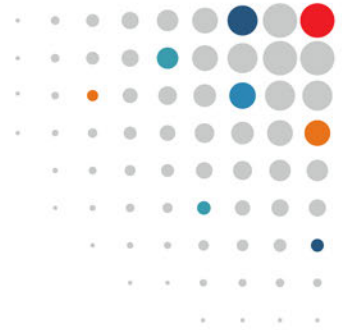




Social Investment Agency
Toi Hau Tāngata



29 January 2025

File Ref:2024029

9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2025 to the Social Investment Agency requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Here's a recent situation that got me thinking if this is happening in NZ? Are pregnant women being tracked?

<https://apnews.com/article/pregnancy-child-welfare-lawsuit-vermont-2fb1e1b3f89883ecb86b090ac22bf54c>

I understand there's a drive to 'target' social investments in NZ and Andrew Coster is leading this effort yet details on HOW this will/does happen aren't clear.

Please can you describe how this agency will target social investment support and the safeguards in place?

Is the SIA using predictive analytics and how?

Does SIA draw from or use facial recognition technology to collect data?

Has a thorough and exhaustive privacy impact assessment been completed and where can I find it?

The Social Investment Agency (SIA) was established on 1 July 2024 as a central public agency. It is led by Andrew Coster and its role is to lead a social investment approach to improve outcomes for New Zealanders.

Social investment aims to change the way services for those with multiple and complex unmet needs are provided. It will enable better targeted and more effective delivery of cross-cutting services and supports for those the system does not currently serve well.

You may wish to read our Strategic Intentions document at <https://www.sia.govt.nz/publications/Strategic-Intentions-2024-25-2028-29> This outlines the key elements of social investment and our strategic direction. We will continue to update www.sia.govt.nz as we develop our work programme.

Regarding your questions about how we use data and analytics, the SIA has an ongoing role in providing data and evidence to inform investments that improve the lives of New Zealanders. This includes high-level research on the groups in the population that are not well-served by the current system and could benefit from additional support.

This research **does not** involve identifying individuals; therefore, SIA **does not** collect any information that identifies individuals, including pregnant women or using facial recognition.

Research we conduct relies on data in the Integrated Data Infrastructure research database (IDI) which is owned and managed by Statistics New Zealand. Data in the IDI is de-identified. This means information like names, dates of birth, and addresses has been removed. Numbers that can be used to identify people, like IRD and NHI numbers, are encrypted (replaced with another number).

Use of the IDI is controlled and along with only being accessed by vetted users in a secure setting, any use of the IDI must be in the public interest. You can find more information about the IDI and how it is used here: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/integrated-data-infrastructure/>

SIA is a signatory to the Algorithm Charter, which governs the use of predictive analytics for operational purposes and aims to prevent harmful uses of data and analytics. SIA currently does not use any algorithms for operational purposes. If it did, the Algorithm Charter requires that it publishes details about how it was using these algorithms, and inform the people that are affected by them. You can find more information about the Algorithm Charter here: <https://data.govt.nz/toolkit/data-ethics/government-algorithm-transparency-and-accountability/algorithm-charter>

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact info@sia.govt.nz

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Anderson'.

Kirsty Anderson
Manager, Office of the Chief Executive
Social Investment Agency