



2 Bristol Avenue,
Colindale, NW9 4EW
12 November 2020
Our ref: 6714448

Thank you for your request received on 21 October 2020, for the following information:

1. Does any stage of decision making across benefits and welfare (defined as including but not limited to allocation of social housing, personal social care budgets, council tax support and the assessment of fraud within) presently involve automation, AI or algorithms at your council?

a. For clarity, automation may include (non-exhaustively), predictive analytics (ie to assess rent arrears or child welfare risks), risk assessment of claims (commonly known as risk based verification), the use of computer programs or algorithms to guide resource allocation, the use of datasets to guide how benefits are processed and disbursed.

2. If Yes, please provide details:

- a. Of the algorithms or automated decision-making programs you use;**
- b. If you use a commercial product or whether you have developed your own system;**
- c. Of the purpose for which the algorithm or automated decision-making system operates;**
- d. Of the decisions the algorithm or automated decision-making system is asked to make;**
- e. Of the type, classification and amount of data that the algorithm or automated decision-making system uses to make its decision;**
- f. If a commercial product, how much has it cost the council over the past three years.**

3. If no, has your council stopped using this kind of automation in the last three years and what automation/algorithms were previously used?

4. Does your council use Amazon Rekognition software, and if yes, what for?

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

The council holds the information requested and the answers to your questions are below

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(ie to assess rent arrears or child welfare risks), risk assessment of claims (commonly known as risk based verification), the use of computer programs or algorithms to guide resource allocation, the use of datasets to guide how benefits are processed and disbursed.

No.

2. If Yes, please provide details:

- a. Of the algorithms or automated decision-making programs you use;**
- b. If you use a commercial product or whether you have developed your own system;**
- c. Of the purpose for which the algorithm or automated decision-making system operates;**
- d. Of the decisions the algorithm or automated decision-making system is asked to make;**
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- f. If a commercial product, how much has it cost the council over the past three years.**

N/A above.

3. If no, has your council stopped using this kind of automation in the last three years and what automation/algorithms were previously used?

Benefits did use a risk-based verification service called Call Credit (now called TransUnion) supplied via Civica Ltd from September 2017 and ended its use in June 2019. We now have enhanced links to the DWP / HMRC who can provide income information in real time, and we also undertake income reviews through DWP projects.

4. Does your council use Amazon Rekognition software, and if yes, what for?

No.

Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct

marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.