

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Government use of AI for decision making about public services
Date: 28 May 2024 11:23:53
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hi Dan,

Thanks for letting me know about this. What we're specifically focusing on is the use of AI to make or support decisions that affect people's access to services (housing, benefits, school placements, immigration status), so this one doesn't quite hit the mark. If they get it to work well though it might be a good showcase of successful uses of AI in government though!

If you need any support with the engagement with DBT (eg if any AI tech questions come up which you want a hand with) please let me know.

Best,
Clara

From: [REDACTED]@ico.org.uk>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 4:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]@ico.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Government use of AI for decision making about public services

Hi Clara,

I had a catch up with our contact at the Department of Business & Trade (DBT) earlier this week, who mentioned that he was aware of a research project that DBT has been running using a large language model to analyse and extract/create relevant metadata for publicly available materials published by regulators.

I spoke to the [REDACTED], one of the DBT people who worked on the project, and he provided me with an overview of the project (see notes below) as well as some documentation (attached) and copies of emails between the DBT project team and DPO function (attached).

Not sure if this quite meets the parameters of the work you're doing collecting AI use cases by central government agencies, but I thought I'd share in case. Let me know if you'd like any more info, or if you think it's worth setting up a follow-up call with DBT?

Notes from call with [REDACTED] (DBT), 22 May 2024

- Issue - 90+ UK regulators publish over 10,000 separate regulations about the economy, and there is a lack of consistency.
- To resolve this lack of consistency, DBT has been manually

extracting key metadata around each regulation. This process works, but it is very labour intensive and takes a long time.

- The Regulatory Language Processor project is an exploratory research project looking at whether an LLM can create/extract this metadata more quickly and effectively than the manual process.
- The project uses the Llama II LLM, using a set of regulations from Gov.UK as inputs to try and produce a set of metadata for each one that can be used to test. Llama II is apparently approved for use in DBT for testing purposes only.
- DBT has started doing the testing - no plans to implement at this stage, but they may consider options for implementation further down the line depending on the results of the project.
- Some issues were identified during the scoping for the project, including around data protection.
 - The main DP risk is that regulatory documents sometimes include personal data about the individuals involved in preparing the product or participating in consultations, eg contact details.
 - The DBT DPO assessed the project as "high risk" from a DP perspective, which we disagreed with.
 - The project team disagreed with that assessment – the documents are already publicly available on GOV.UK and are under open government licence, so hard to see what high risks could arise.



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