**Our request (sent 30-04-2018):**

To whom it may concern,

We are submitting the following Freedom of Information Request for documents relating to data analytics, predictive analytics, or algorithmic automated systems used for risk assessment, predictive analytics, scoring systems or automated decision making within the jurisdiction Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Examples of data analytics applications have been mentioned here:

https://atos.net/en-gb/2015/press-release-en-gb\_2015\_02\_20/en-gb-pr-2015\_02\_20\_01

https://www.computing.co.uk/ctg/news/2396283/blaenau-gwent-council-works-with-atos-infoshare-in-data-analytics-project-to-identify-vulnerable-citizens

Note: these are examples and not the only systems we are interested in.

Specifically, we are requesting:

· Any briefing notes, reports, evaluations, or summaries concerning the systems.

· Any overviews about how system outputs are produced.

. Any information on safeguarding measures related to the systems. For example, procedures that attempt to ensure a system does not reproduce bias.

· Any training manuals or materials (e.g. slides, etc.) for staff about data collection, analysis, assessment and reporting as related to the use of the systems.

· Any data visualization outputs connected to the systems.

· Any promotional material, presentation material, or educational material related to the systems.

. Any contracts relating to the systems.

Also, please note we are not requesting datasets or any data about individuals.

Please let us know if any information requires clarifying.

We would like to receive electronic copies of this information.

All the very best,

Data Justice Lab // www.datajusticelab.org // datajusticelab@cardiff.ac.uk

School of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University

**Their reply (received 29-05-2018):**

Dear Data Justice Lab,

In response to your Freedom of Information request please see the Officer’s comments below:

Unfortunately, Blaenau Gwent CBC does not hold all the requested information as the Council's IT service was transferred to the Shared Resource Service Wales (SRS) in Blaenavon from 1st June 2016 and they operate an IT service for Torfaen Council, Monmouthshire Council and Gwent Police.

The SRS contact details are as follows:

Address: Ty Cyd 1, Gilchrist Thomas Industrial Estate, Blaenavon, Torfaen, Wales NP4 9RL

Telephone: 01495 766183

Email: SharedResourceServiceWales.gov.uk

The software system used for the Vulnerable Intelligence project and the analytics was ATOS’s. This was a pilot scheme and unfortunately, the staff involved have both left the Authority. I have been advised that we do not hold details regarding the system, as this would held by Atos.

It seems that we do not have any software systems that allow us to use predictive analytics, as most of our projections are done via an excel spreadsheet taking into account performance or financial trends.

We have a risk strategy document that supports managers in assessing and scoring risk but no automated systems for that or decision making.

I hope this is of assistance and if you have any queries please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

FOI Team

H **Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**

**Legal Section, The General Offices, Steel Works Road, Ebbw Vale, South Wales NP23 6DN**

H Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent

Mae'r Adain Gyfreithiol, Y Swyddfeydd Cyffredinol, Heol Gwaith Dur, Glyn Ebwy NP23 6DN

*Mae’r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiarth yn Gymraeg a saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond I chi rhoi gwybod I ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.*

***The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer.******Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay***.

\* For future reference please can all future FOI requests be submitted via the link below:

FOI@Blaenau-Gwent.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: foi@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk.

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner’s Office - Wales

2nd Floor Churchill House

Churchill Way

Cardiff

CF10 2HH

Telephone: 029 2067 8400

Fax: 029 2067 8399

Email: wales@ico.org.uk