

Change log of the Algorithmic Transparency Recording Standard between v3.0 and v4.0

Main changes

Area of change	Changes	Rationale
Structure	<p>The 'Data Specification' section has been split into two sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development Data• Operational Data	<p>Public sector organisations are increasingly using off-the-shelf or pre-trained tools, such as Large Language Model assistants (LLMs) and Foundation Models (Web UI and API-based). Instead of creating a separate template for these tools, we modified the existing one to cover all types of tools, including standard ML models and off-the-shelf tools.</p> <p>As it is not possible to train or fine-tune many off-the-shelf tools, we split the 'Data Specification' section into two sections: 'Development Data' and 'Operational Data'. This allows pre-trained tool owners to skip the 'Development Data' section altogether (since it does not apply to them) and go straight to the 'Operational Data' section. This avoids confusion and ensures a streamlined, single-template approach.</p> <p>Further, it enables the ATRS template to accurately capture the differences between a tool/model's operational data as distinct from its development data.</p>

Additional changes

Area of change	Changes	Rationale
General content	Updates to prompts across the Standard	We received feedback to simplify the wording of prompts and clarify the purpose of each field.

		Long example lists in some prompts have also been replaced with a reference to the ATRS Guidance (via a link embedded at the top of each sheet) to improve readability and user experience.
General content	Link to the ATRS Guidance on GOV.UK added to each sheet in the template	To improve user experience and simplify drafting, a link to the ATRS Guidance is embedded at the top right of each sheet for easy access.
General content	Updated URL/ link requirements	Some of the links provided were only accessible to staff within the record owners' organisations. We have revised prompts in the template to explicitly request 'publicly accessible' links.
Info Page	Updated content of the Info Page	As the structure of some of the sections of the template have changed, the content of the Info Page has been updated accordingly.
Metadata	<p>The following filtering fields were deleted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ID • Standard version • Organisation type • Function • Capability • Task • Tags • Date of completion • Date updated • Date archived 	To save time and resources, the content of filtering fields is now directly updated on the Specialist Publisher website, making them redundant here. We have therefore deleted them.
Tier 1 Information / Summary Information	Title of section changed from 'Information' to 'Summary Information'	Based on feedback, we changed the title of this section to avoid confusion with the detailed information covered in Tier 2.
	<p>Addition and deletion of options in the dropdown list of the 'Phase' field.</p> <p>Option deleted from dropdown list:</p>	Dropdown options amended to further clarify the phase a tool is in.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot/beta <p>New options added to dropdown list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private beta • Public beta 	
	<p>Addition of 'International' to options in the 'Region' field.</p>	<p>We are increasingly receiving records for tools with a cross-border scope, hence 'International' has been added as a dropdown option in the 'Region' field.</p>
Owner and Responsibility	<p>'External supplier' changed to 'Third party'</p>	<p>Some users misunderstood 'External supplier' to mean private sector providers only. We have changed this to 'Third party' to clarify that it includes tool providers from both the public and private sectors.</p>
Description and Rationale	<p>Merged 'Detailed Description' and 'Scope' fields.</p> <p>Field deleted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope 	<p>Based on feedback, the two fields were merged to avoid repetition.</p>
Decision-making Process	<p>Merged the 'Integration into decision-making process' field with the 'Provided Information' field and changed its title to 'Integration into broader operational process'</p>	<p>Merged the two fields to avoid repetition and changed the title of the field and prompt to better reflect its purpose. Moreover, users found the term 'decision' confusing at times since not all tool outputs qualify as 'decisions'. For example, chatbot outputs do not qualify as 'decisions' in the conventional sense of the term. Likewise, some rule-based models produce outputs based on an organisation's pre-existing policies. The term 'decision' was therefore replaced in most fields in this section.</p>
	<p>Changed the title of the 'Human decisions and review process' to 'Human review'</p>	<p>Feedback indicated the term 'review' here would be more inclusive and appropriate since some tool outputs, such as chatbots, can be reviewed by a human being for accuracy and appropriateness without necessarily requiring a 'decision' on part of the human reviewer.</p>

	'Required training' prompt clarified	Feedback indicated the prompt could be amended to clarify it refers the training organisations provide to their internal users.
	Section title changed from 'Decision-making process' to 'Deployment Context'	As the term 'decision' has been replaced in most fields in this section, the title was also changed to capture the four related, yet distinct themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration into broader operational process • Human review • Required training (for users) and • Appeals and review
Tool specification	<p>The 'Phase' field has been deleted</p> <p>New fields added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System-level input • System-level output 	<p>To avoid repetition of content in the 'Tier 1 Information / Summary Information' section, the 'Phase' field was deleted.</p> <p>New fields were also added to the 'Tool specification' section to handle complex tools where system-level input/output is distinct from model-level input/output.</p>
Model specification	Merged 'Datasets' and 'Dataset purposes' fields.	User feedback showed that these two fields often contain duplicate content. We have therefore merged them to avoid repetition.