AI SAFETY SANDBOX · AI POLICY

Check how the UK government discloses its algorithms

Starter · A weekend · Free · Step-by-step guide

Online version: https://ai-safety-sandbox.vercel.app/projects/check-uk-government-algorithms/

Summary

UK public bodies publish records about the algorithmic tools they use under the Algorithmic Transparency Recording Standard. Read five records and assess what is disclosed and what is missing.

Why it matters

Governments are rapidly adopting AI. Transparency only works if someone reads the records and asks hard questions.

What you will have at the end

A short report scoring five records.

Steps (tick each box as you go)

- [ ] **1. Understand the standard (30 min)**
  Read the Algorithmic Transparency Recording Standard hub on GOV.UK: what a record must contain and why.
- [ ] **2. Pick five records (30 min)**
  Choose tools that affect people directly (benefits, policing, health, education) if you can.
- [ ] **3. Score each record (2 hr)**
  Make a checklist: purpose, data used, human oversight, known risks, how to complain. Score each record against it.
- [ ] **4. Spot the patterns (1 hr)**
  What is usually missing? Which record is the best example and why?
- [ ] **5. Recommend improvements (1 hr)**
  Write three practical recommendations for the standard or the agencies.

What you need

- A web browser
- A weekend

What you will learn

- How public-sector AI is governed in the UK
- Algorithmic transparency in practice
- Policy evaluation

Source and links

GOV.UK — Algorithmic Transparency Recording Standard hub
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/algorithmic-transparency-recording-standard-hub

When you have finished

Write a few paragraphs on what you did, what you found and what you would try next, and share it with a friend, your society or online.

Try next: Write a two-page policy memo on one AI risk
https://ai-safety-sandbox.vercel.app/projects/policy-memo-on-one-risk/

Courses, mentors, small grants and communities:
https://ai-safety-sandbox.vercel.app/next-steps/

Questions? Ask in AI Safety Cardiff University (AISCU): https://aiscu.org/

Notes