

# MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

10:00 - 13:00, Thursday 9th September 2021  
Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

### Virtual Meeting

#### Attendees:

##### **Council members:**

Alice Bentinck	Entrepreneur First
Professor Pete Burnap	Cardiff University
Paul Clarke	Formerly Ocado
Rachel Dunscombe	NHS Digital Academy
Tabitha Goldstaub	AI Council Chair
Professor Dame Wendy Hall	UK AI Skills Champion
Dame Patricia Hodgson	Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation
Lila Ibrahim	Deepmind
Adrian Joseph	BT Group
Priya Lakhani	CENTURY Tech
Professor David Lane	Edinburgh Centre for Robotics
Professor Neil Lawrence	University of Cambridge
Professor Sir Adrian Smith	The Alan Turing Institute
Martin Tisné	Luminate
Professor Sir Mark Walport	Formerly UKRI and Government CSA
Marc Warner	Faculty

##### **Observers:**

Logan Graham	10DS (10 Data Science)
Ottoline Leyser	Chief Executive, UKRI
Tom Rodden	Chief Scientific Adviser, DCMS

##### **Officials:**

Tim Cook	Office for AI
Dylan Evans	Office for AI
Dr Indra Joshi [For Item 5]	NHSX
Iarla Kilbane-Dawe	Office for AI
Sana Khareghani	Office for AI
Pierre Olivier [For Item 6]	IPO
Robin Stout [For Item 6]	IPO
Leanne Summers [For Item 5]	NHSX
Nick Swanson	Office for AI
Geoffrey Thornton	Office for AI

## **Apologies**

Professor Chris Bishop  
Ann Cairns  
Dr Claire Craig  
Professor Nick Jennings  
Professor Máire O'Neill  
Paul Monks

Microsoft Research Lab  
Mastercard  
The Queen's College, Oxford  
Imperial College London  
Queen's University Belfast  
Chief Scientific Adviser, BEIS

### **Item 1: Chair's Welcome**

- The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Chris Bishop, Ann Cairns, Claire Craig, Nick Jennings and Máire O'Neill.
- The Chair gave an oral update on activity occurring since the last meeting of the Council, including a round table discussion held with members of the Welsh AI community. Other input had been provided on an algorithmic transparency standard for the public sector; and on the emerging Defence AI Strategy.
- Over 400 responses had been received to the Council's recent online survey of the AI ecosystem, run in partnership with the Alan Turing Institute. A summary of results had been published earlier that week. The Chair thanked all those involved in the preparation, promotion and analysis of the survey.

### **Item 2: Office for AI Update**

- The Head of the Office for AI (OAI) thanked members for their recent efforts in gathering views from across the wider AI community.
- Attention was drawn to the recent appointment of Sir Patrick Vallance to the newly created role of National Technology Adviser. The government's ambitions for science and research would be further driven forward by a new ministerial council - known as the National Science and Technology Council - supported by a new Office for Science and Technology Strategy.
- The National Security and Investment (NSI) Act would come into effect from 4 January 2022. Ahead of that point members were asked to raise awareness of forthcoming changes among their wider networks. A toolkit containing key messages and graphics had been prepared to support members in spreading the word.
- A consultation would shortly be published by DCMS exploring potential changes to the UK's data regime. A copy would be shared with members in due course.

### **Item 3: National AI Strategy**

- The Deputy Head (Strategy) of the OAI began by thanking members for their central role in gathering evidence to inform the development of the National AI Strategy. Both the Council's published 'AI Roadmap' and recent online survey had provided a valuable set of recommendations and findings from across the UK's AI community.

- The strategy was intended to set out a 10-year vision, recognising that AI policy was a fast moving and dynamic area. The vision had in turn been built around three core pillars fundamental to the development of AI:
  - Investing in the needs of the ecosystem to see more people working with AI, more access to data and compute resources to train and deliver AI systems, and access to finance and customers to grow sectors;
  - Supporting the diffusion of AI across the whole economy to ensure all regions, nations, businesses and sectors can benefit from AI; and
  - Developing a pro-innovation regulatory and governance framework that protects the public.
- Attention was drawn to the short, medium and long term actions that had been identified under each pillar.
- Members discussed the timing of the strategy; the interactions with Spending Review; the overall narrative and themes of the document; the importance of ensuring AI benefits all sectors and regions of the UK; and the role of the Council in supporting the implementation and delivery of strategy.
- Detailed, measurable plans for the execution of the first stage of the strategy would be published in due course.

#### **Item 4: AI Council: Forward Planning**

- The Head of the OAI and Chair of the AI Council gave an overview of the recent work, activity and output of the Council during its first two years of operation.
- Members discussed the future role and priorities for the Council noting recent changes to the wider science and technology landscape; the completion of commitments made in the 2018 AI Sector Deal; and the forthcoming publication of a new National AI Strategy.

#### **Item 5: National AI in Health and Adult Social Care Strategy**

- Officials gave an update on the emerging vision and missions for the National AI in Health and Social Care Strategy, setting out the ambition for AI-driven technologies in the UK's health and social care system.
- Members discussed a range of future use cases for AI-driven technologies. In addition, it would be important for the government to understand the future workforce requirements within the health and social care system - for example in data science and analytics - to enable the adoption of safe, ethical and effective AI-driven technologies.
- Members agreed to provide further input on case studies to illustrate the potential positive impact of AI across a range of pathways and processes in the health and social care setting.

## **Item 6: Intellectual Property Office: Update on AI and IP**

- The Deputy Director for Copyright Policy (IPO) updated members on a forthcoming consultation exploring how the copyright and patent system should deal with AI.
- The Government had previously sought views on the impact of AI on the Intellectual Property framework. This had prompted further questions about the balance between the protection of human works and AI works, and the use of copyright material in machine learning.
- The forthcoming consultation was therefore intended to seek further evidence and views on a range of options for possible changes to patent and copyright law.
- A discussion followed during which members shared their initial views. Members offered to promote the consultation among their wider networks and agreed to host an event during the consultation period.
- The Chair thanked officials and Council members for attending and closed the meeting.

**AI Council Secretariat**