MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

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

Virtual Meeting

<u>Attendees:</u>

Ministerial attendance:

George Freeman MP [For Item 2]	Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, BEIS
Chris Philp MP [For Item 2]	Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy, DCMS

Council members:

Paul Clarke	Formerly Ocado
Dr Claire Craig	The Queen's College, Oxford
Rachel Dunscombe	NHS Digital Academy
Tabitha Goldstaub	AI Council Chair
Professor Dame Wendy Hall	UK AI Skills Champion
Dame Patricia Hodgson	Formerly Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation
Lila Ibrahim	Deepmind
Professor Nick Jennings [Items 1-3]	Loughborough University
Adrian Joseph	BT Group
Professor David Lane [Items 1-3]	Edinburgh Centre for Robotics
Professor Neil Lawrence	University of Cambridge
Professor Máire O'Neill	Queen's University Belfast
Professor Sir Adrian Smith [Items 1-2]	The Alan Turing Institute
Martin Tisné	Luminate

Observers:

Logan Graham	10DS (10 Data Science)
Ottoline Leyser	Chief Executive, UKRI

Officials:

Tim Cook	Office for AI
Stephanie Ifayemi [For Item 4]	DCMS
Iarla Kilbane-Dawe	Office for AI
Sana Khareghani	Office for AI
Geoff Johnston	Office for AI
Dr Florian Ostmann [For Item 4]	Alan Turing Institute
Nick Swanson	Office for AI
Geoffrey Thornton	Office for AI

Apologies

Alice Bentinck	Entrepreneur First
Professor Chris Bishop	Microsoft Research Lab
Professor Pete Burnap	Cardiff University
Ann Cairns	Mastercard
Priya Lakhani	CENTURY Tech
Professor Sir Mark Walport	Formerly UKRI and Government CSA
Marc Warner	Faculty

Item 1: Chair's Welcome

- The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Alice Bentinck, Chris Bishop, Pete Burnap, Ann Cairns, Priya Lakhani, Mark Walport and Marc Warner.

- The Chair gave a summary of activity occurring since the last meeting of the Council, including continued engagement with both the MoD and NHSX on their respective AI strategies. In addition, the Chair had appeared before the House of Lords Communications and Digital Select Committee as part of their ongoing inquiry into digital regulation.

- The Chair thanked all those who had promoted the National AI Strategy during London Tech Week and at other international events.

- The Council would be supporting the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) later that day as part of a planned discussion to inform the IPO's public consultation on AI and IP.

Item 2: Ministerial Update and Introductions

- The Chair formally welcomed George Freeman MP and Chris Philp MP to the meeting and congratulated both on their recent appointment to ministerial roles in BEIS and DCMS, respectively.

- Ministers Freeman and Philp set out their priorities and ambitions for growing the UK's AI ecosystem and thanked the Council for its continued expert advice.

- A short discussion followed during which members posed questions on AI skills and talent, governance and regulation, and the UK's data protection regime.

- The Chair thanked both ministers for attending and reiterated the Council's commitment to support the delivery and implementation of the National AI Strategy.

Item 3: Discussion on AI Governance & Regulation

- The Head of the Office for AI introduced the item, providing the background and context to current work on AI governance and regulation.

- The government had committed to developing a 'pro-innovation' national position on governing and regulating AI in the UK. This would be set out in a White Paper in 2022.

- The White Paper would consider the emerging challenges and opportunities posed by AI technologies and set out proposals to ensure the UK's approach to regulating AI remained fit for the coming years. The intention was to develop a clear, proportionate and effective framework that would drive prosperity while also building trust in the use of AI.

- Members discussed the current legal and regulatory landscape with reference to issues of fairness, explainability, human oversight, accountability and product standards.

- At the end of the discussion members agreed to provide further advice to the Office of AI in the new year.

Item 4: AI Standards Hub Pilot: Update and Next Steps

- The Head of Digital Standards Policy (DCMS) and Policy Theme Lead (Alan Turing Institute) gave an update on plans to pilot an AI Standards Hub to coordinate UK engagement in AI standardisation globally.

- The government was committed to strengthening UK coordination at global standards development organisations as part of wider plans to support the delivery of National AI Strategy objectives.

- Members put questions to officials and discussed potential functions and priorities for the Hub's pilot phase. Several members agreed to join an informal expert group on AI Standards to inform the next phase of work.

- The Chair thanked officials for attending and looked forward to engaging further on the needs and priorities of the wider ecosystem over the coming months.

Item 5: Office for AI Update

- The Head of the Office for AI (OAI) gave an update on activity occurring across the OAI and broader government since the publication of the National AI Strategy.

- The Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI) had recently published a roadmap setting out the steps required to build a world-leading AI assurance ecosystem in the UK. Separately, the Central Digital and Data Office had launched a new algorithmic transparency standard for government departments and public sector bodies, delivering on commitments made in both the National Data Strategy and National AI Strategy.

- Members were invited to contribute to ongoing research to better understand the routes by which AI R&D was commercialised in the UK.

- The Chair thanked officials and Council members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

AI Council Secretariat