ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

15:00- 17:00 27th September 2022

Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Virtual Meeting

<u>Attendees:</u>
Council members:

Professor Pete Burnap	Cardiff University
Paul Clarke	Formerly Ocado
Dr Claire Craig	The Queen's College, Oxford
Rachel Dunscombe	NHS Digital Academy
Tabitha Goldstaub	UK AI Business Champion, CogX
Professor Dame Wendy Hall	UK AI Skills Champion
Dame Patricia Hodgson	Formerly Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation
Lila Ibrahim	Deepmind
Professor Nick Jennings	Loughborough University
Adrian Joseph	BT Group
Priya Lakhani	CENTURY Tech
Professor David Lane	Edinburgh Centre for Robotics
Professor Neil Lawrence	University of Cambridge
Professor Máire O'Neill	Queen's University Belfast
Professor Sir Mark Walport	Formerly UKRI and Government CSA

Officials:

Gemma Peck	Director, Business Growth and OAI, BEIS
Lizzie Greenhalgh	Deputy Director, Regulation and AI, DCMS
Jill Carman	Deputy Head, Office for AI
Laura Lean	Head of AI Council Secretariat, Office for AI
Geoff Johnston	AI Council Secretariat, OAI

<u>Apologies received from:</u>

Professor Chris Bishop	Microsoft Research Lab
Ann Cairns	Mastercard
Dame Ottoline Leyser	Chief Executive, UKRI
Professor Sir Adrian Smith	The Alan Turing Institute
Martin Tisné	Luminate
Marc Warner	Faculty

Guests

Dr Cosmina Dorobantu	The Alan Turing Institute
Professor Helen Margetts	University of Oxford, The Alan Turing Institute
James Dracott	Head, Artificial Intelligence & Robotics, EPSRC
Dame Lynn Gladden	Executive Chair, EPSRC
Sara El-Hanfy	Head of AI & Machine Learning at Innovate UK

Observers

Paul Monks, BEIS
Thomas Rodden, DCMS

Introduction

- The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Chris Bishop, Ann Cairns, Ottoline Leyser, Adrian Smith, Martin Tisné and Marc Warner.

Item 1: Reflections on the new government and early Ministerial priorities

- Gemma Peck, Director, Business Growth and OAI updated members on the new Government and early Ministerial priorities relating to AI. The Director also referred members to the £500 million fund aimed at increasing investment into UK science and technology scale-ups as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Friday.

Item 2: AI Policy Paper and next steps on developing our overall regulatory approach

- Lizzie Greenhalgh, Deputy Director for the Office for AI provided an overview of government's early proposals to regulate AI, emphasising new Ministers' commitment to driving growth and innovation through the approach..

- The Deputy Director noted that the proposals had been broadly welcomed by stakeholders. However, there are a number of key themes emerging from stakeholder feedback that would be important to consider through next steps:

    1) The right degree of decentralization vs. coordination. While stakeholders have strongly supported a context-based approach, they are keen to understand how effective regulatory coordination will be achieved in practice and ensure coherence.

    2) Making sure a non-statutory approach is effective. While stakeholders noted the flexibility and agility offered by a non-statutory approach, they are keen to understand how to ensure sure it has the desired impact.

    3) The importance of interoperability. While stakeholders welcomed the UK's approach and noted its flexibilities, they emphasised the importance of achieving interoperability to support effective cross-border working and international collaboration.

- The Deputy Director noted they would be engaging regulators closely on next steps. In addition, the AI Standards hub will launch in October and government continues to work closely with like minded international partners.

- Members emphasised their support for the approach. They noted the need for additional clarity on how risk will be measured. They also noted the importance of regulators having the right powers, tools and capabilities - suggesting that novel techniques may be necessary. They agreed that ongoing international engagement would be critical and ensuring effective coordination would be critical.

- Members emphasised the importance of getting the UK's approach right and the need for careful thought. They also noted the need for an inclusive regulatory approach, in particular stressing the importance of workforce diversity in combating unintended bias when developing and deploying AI systems.

Item 3: Alan Turing Institute's Common Regulatory Capacity for AI Report

- The Institute updated members on their Common Regulatory Capacity for AI Report.

- Members noted we must encourage diversity of thought across regulators and allow them to decide how to cover their sector appropriately. Furthermore, regulation must be underpinned by effective assurance and the government must ensure regulators have the required expertise when regulating on AI. Members also noted the need for a standardisation of language when discussing AI across the ecosystem.

Item 4: AI strategy update

- Jill Carman, Deputy Head of the OAI provided an update on delivery of the National AI Strategy. She noted the team is currently refining its work programme for the year ahead. She is keen for members to provide feedback on AI priorities going forward, noting the plans to issue annual updates on the strategy.

- Members confirmed that the Council will issue a note setting out how they recommend best delivering on next steps on the National AI Strategy and where best to focus in the coming year.

- Members agreed to set up a sub committee of the Council to focus on Skills.

Item 5: UKRI AI funding

- James Dracott, the Head of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics at UKRI updated members on funding to the Alan Turing Institute to drive facilitation of the AI ecosystem. Focus was placed on the goal to improve the connection between researchers, innovators, and practitioners across the AI ecosystem.

AI Council Secretariat