UK AI COUNCIL

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

11:00 - 12:30, Wednesday 21 June 2023

Department of Science, Innovation and Technology

Hybrid Meeting

Ministers:

Viscount Camrose	Minister for Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property
Rt Hon Chloe Smith	Secretary of State, DSIT

Council members:

Adrian Joseph	BT Group
Professor Máire O'Neill	Queen's University Belfast
Ann Cairns	Formerly Mastercard
Marc Warner	Faculty
Martin Tisné	Luminate
Professor Nick Jennings, CB	Loughborough University
Ottoline Leyser	UK Research and Innovation
Dame Patricia Hodgson	Formerly Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation
Paul Clarke, CBE	Formerly Ocado Ltd
Rachel Dunscombe	NHS Digital Academy
Tabitha Goldstaub	AI Council Chair
Professor Dame Wendy Hall	UK AI Skills Champion
Professor David Lane	Edinburgh Centre for Robotics
Dr Claire Craig	The Queen's College, Oxford
Professor Neil Lawrence	University of Cambridge
Professor Pete Burnap	Cardiff University

Officials:

Blake Bower	Director, Digital and Tech Policy, DSIT
Daisy McGregor	Deputy Director
Head of AI institutions and partnerships	Office for AI
AI Council Secretariat	Office for AI

Apologies:

Professor Sir Adrian Smith	Alan Turing Institute
Lila Ibrahim	Deepmind
Priya Lakhani	CENTURY Tech
Professor Sir Mark Walport	Formerly UKRI and Government CSA

Item 1: Chair's Introduction

- The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Professor Sir Adrian Smith, Lila Ibrahim, Priya Lakhani and Professor Sir Mark Walport.

- The Chair noted that this would be the last AI Council meeting as a group. The Chair thanked members for their contributions on the Council and noted their achievements since the Council's inception in 2019.

Item 2: Secretary of State's opening remarks

- The Secretary of State thanked The Chair and the broader Council members for all their support in developing the UK's early strategic approach to AI policy
- The Secretary of State flagged that the Council's terms will be drawing to a close and the next item will cover the plans for utilising the Council's expertise in a more flexible manner.

Item 3: AI Council and HMG ambitions for the tech advisory landscape

- The Director of Digital and Tech Policy at DSIT laid out plans for transitioning to a more flexible structure for DSIT to seek input and advice on a wider range of issues including, but not limited to AI.

- To this end we will be asking experts from across the wider tech landscape to act as advisors to DSIT, to provide input on priority issues on an ad hoc basis. We will be extending an invitation to AI Council members to take on this role.

- A detailed discussion followed during which members flagged aspects of consideration for the new advisory structure. These included ensuring that the new structure is agile, fosters collaboration, provides critical challenge, supports horizon scanning. The importance of ensuring a diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints is represented was emphasised.

Item 4: Discussion on regulatory capabilities to implement the provisions of the new AI regulatory framework

Members were asked questions regarding the current capabilities of the current regulatory landscape and what future regulatory policy could look like:

- Members noted that confidence in regulator pace varies across the regulatory landscape. Adding that regulators will need to keep pace by adapting elements such as their working culture and tools in order to navigate the scaleable and evolving nature of the AI environment.
- There was discussion around emerging AI risks. Members noted that this needs to encompass Government use of AI, extending beyond resource assignment.
- Members also noted the risks associated with democratic processes and flagged a need for public engagement on this topic.
- Members commented whether an industry approach for ensuring sensible AI use could be similar to how companies already undertake sustainability obligations.

Item 5: Discussion: AI Safety Research

- Members were asked where the UK should focus its efforts in AI safety research and how best these efforts would be pursued.

- Discussion followed during which members noted that efforts should be made in promoting connectivity and interdisciplines, being outcome focused, raising public understanding of AI principles and topics, having risk and opportunity frameworks, and broadening intellectual property rights.
- Members noted that we should be aiming to influence the development of AI technologies before they are ready and released to the market

Item 6: AOB

- The Secretary of State warmly thanked the AI Council for the significant contribution members have made over the past four years, noting the key role the council has played supporting the UK's strategic approach on AI policy particularly through the AI roadmap, and by providing high quality advice on data ethics to skills to regulation.
- The Secretary of State emphasised how much the Government has valued, and benefited from this input, and it is for this reason we wish to continue to access members' insights as expert advisors. The Secretary of state also thanked the Chair for her work, and this sentiment was echoed by Council members.
- The Secretary of State thanked the AI Council for the discussion and debate in the meeting and noted that a government response will follow once the consultation period has closed.
- The Secretary of State flagged the positioning of the UK and noted that the UK has the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in the AI space, with a heritage of many multinational forums looking at this topic.
- The Chair concluded the meeting and thanked officials and Council members for their attendance.

AI Council Secretariat