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*By email*

**Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life**

**4 July 2023**

**Artificial Intelligence and Public Standards Report Follow Up**

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY / CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life regarding our 2020 report, [Artificial Intelligence and Public Standards](#), which sets out steps to ensure that high standards of conduct are upheld as AI is adopted more widely across the public sector.

It is our view that technology has the potential to revolutionise the delivery of public services. But it is the way that technology is used and governed by government departments and public bodies that will determine this.

The report made a number of recommendations to public organisations making decisions about AI, including government departments and agencies, local authorities, police forces, NHS trusts, and private providers of public services, to help them establish effective governance arrangements to manage the ethical risks associated with AI (attached for information).

Three years on it is clear that AI developments have moved on at some pace. As such, we are following up the recommendations made in our report, writing to public bodies and regulators, with the intention of holding a seminar and publishing a formal update on progress later in the year.

I would be pleased therefore, to hear whether your department or organisation is currently using AI in decision-making, and if so, how you are adapting your governance processes for AI in line with the recommendations in our report.

I would be grateful if you would complete the attached questionnaire by **15 September 2023** and return it by email to [public@public-standards.gov.uk](mailto:public@public-standards.gov.uk).

I will publish a copy of this letter on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Evans of Weardale, KCB DL



Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

### **Public Bodies Progress Update**

Name of organisation:

Name and role of respondee:

1. Are you currently using AI to aid decision-making in your organisation? Please give details if possible. If no, please send us a nil return. If yes, please answer questions 2-9.
2. How do you demonstrate that you are using AI in ways that are legal and legitimate?
3. How do you assess the potential impact of a proposed AI system on public standards (eg. openness, accountability, and objectivity), and ensure that the design of the AI system mitigates any standards risks identified?
4. How do you tackle issues of bias and discrimination in AI systems and decisions? For example, by taking into account a diverse range of behaviours, backgrounds and views.
5. How do you ensure that responsibility for AI systems is clearly allocated and documented, and that operators of AI systems are able to exercise their responsibility in a meaningful way?
6. How do you monitor and evaluate your AI systems to ensure they always operate as intended?
7. What internal and external oversight mechanisms do you have in place to ensure that your AI systems are properly scrutinised?
8. How do you enable people to challenge automated and AI-assisted decisions and to seek redress using procedures that are independent and transparent?
9. Do your employees working with AI undergo continuous training and education about AI and the ethical risks associated with it?

## **Recommendations to public bodies and private providers of public services**

### *Recommendation 9: Evaluating risks to public standards*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should assess the potential impact of a proposed AI system on public standards at project design stage, and ensure that the design of the system mitigates any standards risks identified. Standards review will need to occur every time a substantial change to the design of an AI system is made.

### *Recommendation 10: Diversity*

Providers of public services, both public and private, must consciously tackle issues of bias and discrimination by ensuring they have taken into account a diverse range of behaviours, backgrounds and points of view. They must take into account the full range of diversity of the population and provide a fair and effective service.

### *Recommendation 11: Upholding responsibility*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should ensure that responsibility for AI systems is clearly allocated and documented, and that operators of AI systems are able to exercise their responsibility in a meaningful way.

### *Recommendation 12: Monitoring and evaluation*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should monitor and evaluate their AI systems to ensure they always operate as intended.

### *Recommendation 13: Establishing oversight*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should set oversight mechanisms that allow for their AI systems to be properly scrutinised.

### *Recommendation 14: Appeal and redress*

Providers of public services, both public and private, must always inform citizens of their right and method of appeal against automated and AI-assisted decisions.

### *Recommendation 15: Training and education*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should ensure their employees working with AI systems undergo continuous training and education.