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Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
SW1A 2AA

**Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life**

21 March 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to inform you that, following discussion at our Committee meeting in January 2019, the Committee on Standards in Public Life has decided to undertake a review on artificial intelligence (AI) and the use of associated advanced technologies in the public sector. The Committee will look at the impact of AI on standards, as understood by the Seven Principles of Public Life.

My Committee is concerned to establish whether existing frameworks and regulations are sufficient to ensure that standards are upheld as data and data-enabled technologies are increasingly used by government and the public sector to aid decision-making.

The Committee will examine the extent to which artificial intelligence is already being used in the public sector, looking at how standards may be affected by the widespread introduction of this technology, and explore what safeguards and considerations of standards are currently in place in the procurement and deployment of AI across the public sector.

The Committee's terms of reference for its review into artificial intelligence and standards are attached for your information.

I am copying this letter to the Propriety and Ethics Team in the Cabinet Office.

Yours,



Lord Evans of Weardale KCB DL

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## **EMBARGOED**

### **Terms of reference**

The terms of reference for the Committee's review into artificial intelligence and standards are to:

1. Consider whether existing frameworks and regulations are sufficient to ensure that standards are upheld as technologically assisted decision-making is adopted more widely in the public sector, including:
  - a. Examining the current use of artificial intelligence and associated advanced technologies in the public sector;
  - b. Exploring how standards may be affected by the widespread introduction of these technologies into the public sector;
  - c. Examining what safeguards and considerations of standards are currently in place in technology procurement processes in the public sector;
  - d. Examining what safeguards and considerations of standards are currently in place in the deployment of AI and advanced technologies within the public sector;
  - e. Examining what safeguards and considerations of standards are currently in place in private sector organisations developing AI services intended for use in the public sector.
2. Examine how provisions for standards can be built into the development, commissioning, and deployment of new technologies in the public sector;
3. Consider to what extent the use of artificial intelligence and associated advanced technology has implications for our understanding and formulation of the Seven Principles of Public Life;
4. Make recommendations for how standards can be maintained in the public sector where advanced technologies are increasingly used for service delivery, including best practice guidance and regulatory change where necessary.

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