ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL
15:00 - 18:00, Monday 9th September 2019
Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
The Council Room, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London SW1P 3NZ

<u>Attendees:</u>
Ministerial attendance

Matt Warman MP	Minister for Digital and Broadband, DCMS

Council members

Tabitha Goldstaub	AI Council Chair
Professor Dame Wendy Hall	UK AI Skills Champion
Alice Bentinck	Entrepreneur First
Professor David Lane	Edinburgh Centre for Robotics
Kriti Sharma	AI for Good
Professor Máire O'Neill	Queen's University Belfast
Marc Warner	Faculty
Sir Mark Walport	UK Research and Innovation
Martin Tisné	Luminate
Professor Neil Lawrence	University of Sheffield
Professor Nick Jennings	Imperial College London
Dame Patricia Hodgson	Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation
Paul Clarke	Ocado
Professor Pete Burnap	Cardiff University
Priya Lakhani	CENTURY Tech
Rachel Dunscombe	NHS Digital Academy

Officials

Catriona Ross	Office for AI
Daniel Quirke	Office for AI
Gila Sacks	DCMS
Hannah Thornley	DCMS
Jay Ashton-Butler	Office for AI
John Peart	DCMS
Rannia Leontaridi	BEIS
Sana Khareghani	Office for AI
Stephen Hennigan	Office for AI
Tim Cook	Office for AI

Apologies

Professor Adrian Smith	The Alan Turing Institute
Alice Webb	BBC Children's and BBC North
Ann Cairns	Mastercard
Professor Chris Bishop	Microsoft Research Lab

Dr Claire Craig   Queen's College
Mustafa Suleyman   DeepMind

Item 1: Ministerial and Chair's welcome

- The Minister welcomed attendees, expressed his excitement and support for the launch of the AI Council, and awarded Kriti Sharma with the Prime Minister's "Points of Light" award.
- The Chair thanked the Minister and the Council for attending, then gave an overview of her vision for the council as helping to address some of the big challenges facing the UK such as climate change and inequality, then set out the agenda for the meeting.

Item 2: Presentation on the work of the Office for AI

- Officials presented on the history of the Office for AI, the work of the AI review and the creation of the AI Council.

Item 3: AI Council Framework and Ways of Working

- Papers on the "Framework" and "Ways of Working" were circulated ahead of the meeting. An overview of the documents was given and the Council approved the proposed documents.
- The "Framework" and "Ways of Working" documents will both be published and available online.

Item 4: Themes

Introduction to themes:

- Themes that had been collected and synthesised through individual meetings with Council members over the course of the summer were presented.
- Three themes were proposed and agreed by the Council, to be areas on which they would concentrate in the near term:
  - Data
  - Skills
  - Narrative and perception
- A significant pull from Government around the health sector was discussed. The health sector will form the unifying aim across the three themes. This unifying aim will necessarily change over time, either due to other pulls from Government or from the Council's advice and horizon scanning
- The broad structure of working groups was discussed - how they would be formed; and crucially that they are a mechanism for the involvement and inclusion of the broader AI ecosystem.
- A discussion was had around horizontal cross-cutting themes that could span each working group, and it was agreed that members could both join and support working groups.

- Council members discussed how they might best be able to support the work of Government and also feel empowered to contribute independent, bold ideas through the working groups.

Data

General comments:

- Data holds significant value that varies between different groups in society.
- When discussing how to build a competitive and strategic AI ecosystem in the UK, data holds a vital role and should be leveraged quickly.
- Data sharing:
    - There are various ways to improve data-sharing practices in the UK
    - There is a need to diversify how we share data in different contexts
    - "Data Trusts" as a mechanism are worth developing further, as data holds significant value that varies between different groups in society
- Ease of data access to some Government datasets (e.g. education or health) are critically important for:
    - UK startups
    - Universities and research institutions
- The discussion was summarised, leads for the Data working group were announced as Neil Lawrence and Martin Tisné.

Skills

General comments:

- The Council considered AI skills across different channels, in schools and online.
- There was acknowledgement of the urgency in getting this right for future generations, and with a focus across regions.
- There is a key difference between short and long-term solutions when discussing skills gaps - both should be explored:
    - How to attract the best talent from abroad (including reviewing visa requirements/dependencies)
    - Growing our own skills
- Broad need for data literacy to be promoted outside of the traditional data-heavy professions.
- Important to consider those left behind from a fast-moving AI skills landscape and how government/industry can respond.
- Discussion was summarised, and the lead for Skills working group announced as Dame Wendy Hall.

<u>Narrative and perception</u>

General comments:

- There is a need to openly discuss the holistic impact of AI development with the public, moving conversation around AI away from the extremes to focus on a more balanced narrative, noting a general responsibility from the AI Council and the Office for AI to lead the way with the wider community.
  - Positive news stories on AI compared with other kinds of messaging
  - Understanding what AI can/cannot yet do
  - Examples from other areas of scientific development where this has been executed well
- The AI Council should look to work with the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation in advancing shared aims when promoting AI ethics to the public.
- The UK excels in the arts, culture and media, and there may be collaborative ways of working with those sectors to advance the perception of AI.
- The Council considered appropriate leads for the working group, and agreed they will be announced as soon as established.

<u>Supporting the health sector</u>

General comments:

- Good work is being undertaken elsewhere in the UK health sector, and there are ways the AI Council could add meaningful value and support in this space.
- We should look at good and bad examples of data management in the health sector that this Council can learn from.
- Health datasets are deeply interrelated across geographic borders, and this contributes to the quality of research in various priority health areas.
- It is important to always consider the end user when discussing health data practices.

Item 5: AOB

- Working group leads would be finalised after the meeting and a call-to-action to the wider community would be published in due course.
- The second AI Council meeting will take place on 5th December in London, venue TBD.

AI Council Secretariat