

TO NOTE: Due to restrictions on Government activity around the pre-election period, this was an informal meeting of the AI Council, and government officials were in listening mode only. The next formal meeting of the AI Council is Monday 9th March.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL
10:00 - 12:30, Thursday 5th December 2019
Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
One Great George St, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA

Attendees:

Council members

Tabitha Goldstaub	AI Council Chair
Professor Dame Wendy Hall	UK AI Skills Champion
Professor Adrian Smith	The Alan Turing Institute
Alice Webb	BBC
Ann Cairns	Mastercard
Claire Craig	The Queen's College, Oxford
Professor Máire O'Neill	Queen's University Belfast
Martin Tisné	Luminate
Professor Neil Lawrence	University of Sheffield
Professor Nick Jennings	Imperial College London
Paul Clarke	Ocado
Professor Pete Burnap	Cardiff University
Rachel Dunscombe	NHS Digital Academy

Officials

Claire Chapman	Office for AI
Gaia Marcus	DCMS
Gila Sacks	DCMS
Heather Butler	Office for AI
Jay Ashton-Butler	Office for AI
Robyn Foyster	Office for AI
Sana Khareghani	Office for AI
Stefan Janusz	Office for AI
Stephen Hennigan	Office for AI
Tim Cook	Office for AI

Apologies

Alice Bentinck	Entrepreneur First
Professor Chris Bishop	Microsoft Research Lab
Professor David Lane	Edinburgh Centre for Robotics
Kriti Sharma	AI for Good
Marc Warner	Faculty
Sir Mark Walport	UK Research and Innovation

Mustafa Suleyman
Dame Patricia Hodgson
Priya Lakhani

DeepMind
Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation
CENTURY Tech

Item 1: Chair's Welcome and Pre-Election Restrictions

- The Chair introduced the purpose and format of the workshop, gave an update on recent progress since the last meeting, and explained the structure of future AI Council meetings which would include updates from the working groups, alongside other activities such as horizon scanning.
- The Chair noted that over 500 unique individuals and organisations responded to the AI Council call-to-action to contribute to the aims of the Working Groups, and reiterated the importance of their role. Working Group leads will be responsible for engaging and encouraging the community to deliver important contributions.
- The Office for AI explained the restrictions on civil servants during the pre-election period, explaining that colleagues present are here for note taking and listening only. Practical guidance to prepare the Council for the workshop was shared, alongside expectations for working with a new government.

Item 2: Working Group Workshops

- Council members then conducted workshops around each of the working groups that were agreed at the first AI Council meeting in September: data; narratives; and skills.
- After the workshops, working group leads summarised their conversations to the group, the other members asked clarifying questions and the Chair provided some initial thoughts.

Summaries as below:

Data

The Data Working Group discussed how to build an understanding of the landscape around data sharing, with a focus on the key issues faced by organisations that wish to, or are required to, share data. This includes on issues such as data access. Primary inputs would include a meta-study of existing public dialogue initiatives undertaken in this space, arranged by sectors, and an interactive dialogue with the wider community who have signed up to contribute to the aims of the data working group. These participants would be clustered by themes, ie. environment, health, national security, etc., to identify a heatmap of barriers, and gradually consolidate the data sharing landscape.

Skills & Diversity

The Skills & Diversity Working Group discussed enhanced activity around online learning and continuing professional development (CPD), and greater local engagement on diversity issues.

There was a broad acknowledgement that online and physical access to continuing professional development would help to fill a critical gap in diffusing AI-related skills across the country. This would require collecting and amplifying existing opportunities, working more explicitly with young people, enabling teacher training in these skills, and a partnership model to create a sustainable pipeline of materials that allows for adjustment to changing circumstances.

Discussions also included the topics of the apprenticeships levy, and how it may be able to apply to AI skills. On diversity, discussion explored further ways that this could be addressed in proactive ways. Roles of central, and local governments as well as schools, colleges, libraries and other institutions were also discussed. The Working Group will create subgroups around priority areas and will work with the wider community to identify the right people for each subgroup.

Narratives & Perception

The Narratives & Perception Working Group accepted that most narratives on AI already exist, and some are being listened to more than others. Discussions revolved around creating a theory of change, as there are multiple audiences relating to the perception of AI and the narrator matters as much as the narrative. To approach this, the group discussed mapping the existing narratives into different categories and applying values onto them. The wider community would be able to systematically map points of influence, their narrators, and create heatmaps that lead towards a baselining of AI narratives.

Discussions were had around successful and unsuccessful narrative moments with other technologies or issues that have raised awareness. There were also discussions around how their work ought to feed into the other working groups as they grow.

Item 4: Summary & AOB

- Note takers summed up the feedback session with some additional considerations for the working groups in the new year that will help them to develop their thoughts further.
- The Chair then concluded the workshop with some information on next steps:
 - Working groups will synthesise the outputs from the workshop, will begin to engage the wider community of respondents for the working groups and enact their plan on this basis.
 - From January onwards, the AI Council secretariat will be able to formally re-engage in the activities of the working groups.
 - Working groups will give an update on progress at the third meeting in March, which will be held outside London.

AI Council Secretariat