ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL
14:30 - 17:30, Monday 9th March 2020
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

Caroline Dinenage MP	Minister for Digital and Culture, DCMS
Amanda Solloway MP	Minister for Science, Research and Innovation, BEIS

Council members

Alice Bentinck	Entrepreneur First
Professor Pete Burnap	Cardiff University
Ann Cairns	Mastercard
Paul Clarke	Ocado
Dr Claire Craig	Queen's College
Rachel Dunscombe	NHS Digital Academy
Tabitha Goldstaub	AI Council Chair
Professor Dame Wendy Hall	UK AI Skills Champion
Dame Patricia Hodgson	Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation
Professor Nick Jennings	Imperial College London
Priya Lakhani	CENTURY Tech
Professor David Lane	Edinburgh Centre for Robotics
Professor Neil Lawrence	University of Cambridge
Professor Máire O'Neill	Queen's University Belfast
Martin Tisné	Luminate

Officials

Freya Pascall	Office for AI
Gemma Peck	BEIS
Gila Sacks	DCMS
Heather Butler	Office for AI
Jay Ashton-Butler	Office for AI
Kathryn Magnay	UK Research and Innovation
Rachel Meehan	Office for AI
Sana Khareghani	Office for AI
Stefan Janusz	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
Professor Chris Bishop   Microsoft Research Lab
Kriti Sharma   AI for Good
Marc Warner   Faculty
Sir Mark Walport   UK Research and Innovation
Mustafa Suleyman   Google

Item 1: Chair and Ministerial welcome

- The Chair welcomed attendees and expressed apologies from other members who were brought into emergency meetings at the last minute.
- Minister Solloway welcomed attendees and introduced herself, outlining the priorities for BEIS and wider government.

Item 2: UKRI Presentation on the AI Review

- A representative from UKRI introduced the UKRI AI Review, its vision, and how the AI Council could help connect the UKRI AI Review into the UK's broader AI landscape.
- Council members discussed how the UKRI AI Review reflects the work of the AI Council working groups and how UKRI and the AI Council could help build a structural connection between the ambition of the UKRI AI Review and the direction of the wider AI landscape.

Item 3: Discussion on a strategic approach to AI in the UK

- Minister Dinenage arrived and introduced her portfolio and priorities, reflecting how the work of the AI Council working groups supports enablers driven by government.
- Officials introduced a discussion paper on the future of AI in the UK horizon scanning paper, and asked for members to contribute their thoughts.
- The momentum behind government priorities was discussed by Council members. Members felt that a strong government vision for AI was key, supported by appropriate funding, and that alignment across departments is key to achieve that vision.
- Members discussed the ambition to remain globally competitive, including a need to continue focusing on, and investing further in, enablers for skills and talent, and a renewed focus on infrastructure and research. The UK is in a good position to demonstrate its ability to do business, to develop and use AI.
- A potential focus on sectors was discussed. Health is both a government and commercial priority to cement the UK's position on the world stage. The prosperity of AI in London can be said to be focused around four key sectors: finance, business services, law, and insurance.

- Members discussed the option of looking at sectors and regions together, to take advantage of the economic benefits of AI and also increase regional strengths in certain sectors.
- There was agreement among members that AI ought to be at the heart of the UK's approach to economic and social development, taking into account its global context and geographic position.
- The Council will consider how it can best utilise it's collective knowledge to influence this debate.

Item 4: Working group updates and discussion

- Working group leads updated on the progress of their working groups since the last meeting. Summaries as below:

Data

The Data Working Group has launched a survey to map the landscape of data-sharing examples from the real world, working alongside the Open Data Institute and the National Data Strategy team DCMS. The survey was sent to the Data Working Group ecosystem, and responses largely reflected existing research. The survey will now be shared to a wider audience in order to capture more examples from entities sharing data, including experiences from other sector councils, before collating and analysing the results. Once the results are analysed, the successes and failures will be mapped onto data stewardship options, and a more expansive conversation around data sharing mechanisms will begin.

Skills & Diversity

The Skills & Diversity Working Group is taking a projects based approach, forming groups from the ecosystem to look at particular issues in the AI skills landscape and driving towards impact and feedback from others. This will begin with a project on diversity: the Working Group will canvas the AI skills ecosystem for experience and suggestions to take forward work on AI skills diversity, and after that will decide how to proceed with a particular initiative.

Narratives & Perception

The Narratives & Perception Working Group are refining their survey to gather a set of AI narratives that are currently in circulation as a baseline. They will shortly send the survey out to the entire AI Council ecosystem, due to the wide-ranging nature of the initiative. The BBC have offered to categorise and baseline the results.

Item 5: Other business

- Members discussed how the AI Council might coordinate as a group to communicate its priority issues to the government.
- There was a recognition that AI is a compelling global megatrend that the government could harness further, under the umbrella of a global science and

technology superpower, to connect across key areas of government and focus on shared challenges.
● An unleashing of AI in the UK could manifest in a number of ways and link with key fiscal announcements.
● The Council agreed to explore opportunities to communicate this in due course.

AI Council Secretariat