

**Artificial Intelligence Council**  
**14:30 - 17:30 11 June**  
**Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport**  
**Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Attendees**

**Council members**

Tabitha Goldstaub	AI Council Chair
Professor Chris Bishop	Microsoft Research Lab
Professor Pete Burnap	Cardiff University
Ann Cairns	Mastercard
Paul Clarke	Ocado
Rachel Dunscombe	NHS Digital Academy
Dr Claire Craig	Queen's College
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
Martin Tisné	Luminate
Marc Warner	Faculty

**Officials**

Lucy Absolom	BEIS
Jay Ashton-Butler	Office for AI
Heather Butler	Office for AI
Claire Chapman	Office for AI
Tim Cook	Office for AI
Daniel Edwards	Office for AI
Rebecca Evernden	BEIS
Sabine Gerdon	Office for AI
Lorna Gratton	DCMS
Sana Khareghani	Office for AI
Freya Pascal	Office for AI
Daniel Quirke	Office for AI
Harshaan Sandhu	Office for AI
Susannah Storey	DCMS

**Apologies**

Alice Bentinck	Entrepreneur First
Professor Neil Lawrence	University of Sheffield
Professor Máire O'Neill	Queen's University Belfast
Kriti Sharma	AI for Good
Professor Adrian Smith	The Alan Turing Institute
Sir Mark Walport	UK Research and Innovation

### **Item 1: Chair's welcome and DG introduction**

- The Chair reflected on the importance of this Council and how people are looking to it 'to do important things for the nation'.
- The Chair articulated the ambitions for this meeting, that the Council should seek to agree its new priorities and determine where it places its collective time, energy and working group activity.
- Susannah Storey, DCMS Director General for Digital and Media Policy, introduced herself to the Council and conveyed her gratitude for the Council's contribution to date.
- Council members proceeded to provide the Chair with quarterly updates on their activities, including the support they have provided to the Government during the Covid-19 crisis response.

### **Item 2: BEIS Research and Development (R&D) Strategy**

- Officials presented on the R&D Strategy process and objectives. The Office for AI has submitted feedback on behalf of the AI Council to inform the development of the strategy.
- Members discussed the need for an overarching Government vision and requested clarity over how this strategy will align with a range of priorities and institutions. Members reflected on their own role and there was collective agreement that the Council needed to develop its own vision in order to inform both this piece of work and a range of strategic Government interventions.

### **Item 3: House of Commons Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) Evidence Submission**

- The AI Council Chair raised the opportunity to submit evidence into a House of Commons inquiry on the nature and purpose of the newly proposed UK funding body, modelled on the US ARPA. The Council discussed this and whether they would collectively respond to this exercise.
- There was a broad agreement between members of the importance of reinforcing science in the UK and the possibilities offered via the transformational impact of deep research. Members circled back to the idea of developing their own Council led vision to ensure that consultations such as these were designed with AI at the forefront.
- It was agreed that members of the Council would develop individual responses to the consultation and that the Council would focus its collective efforts on the aforementioned vision.

### **Item 4: AI Council response to post Covid-19 economic recovery**

- The Chair introduced this discussion, highlighting a need to focus on how the Council might collectively respond to the economic recovery and the format of this response.
- Members reflected on previous discussions during this meeting and collectively agreed that this further highlighted the need for the Council to develop its own vision, with an accompanying 'Roadmap' to articulate in greater detail what the requirements are to deliver that vision. The possible content of this vision and roadmap was

discussed, and Members agreed to collaborate outside of the meeting to design and develop these papers in detail, with an engaged role for the wider community.

- Officials reflected on how such an intervention may be received in Government, noting stated Government priorities of jobs and growth, levelling up and inequality and how AI technologies may contribute to shared objectives.

#### **Item 5: Other business**

- A member of the Council notified the group of discussions taking place with respect to a mooted national algorithm certification service.
- Officials informed members that The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) published its [Revised Issues Paper](#) on IP policy and AI in May and that it will be part of the WIPO Conversation on IP and AI taking place in July. The OAI would welcome comments from Council members on this paper.