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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL
10:00 - 13:00, Thursday 17th September 2020
Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Virtual Meeting

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<u>Attendees:</u>

Ministerial attendance

John Whittingdale MP	Minister of State for Media and Data, DCMS

Council members

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

Officials

Alex Sunley	DCMS
Colin Colas	DCMS
David Prodger	DCMS
Dylan Evans	Office for AI
Jay Ashton-Butler	Office for AI
Jennifer Tyldesley	DCMS
Jessica Housden	DCMS
Joshua Privett	DCMS
Sana Khareghani	Office for AI
Tim Cook	Office for AI
William Kayada	DCMS
Zak Lawton	Number 10

Observers

Professor Dame Lynn Gladden	EPSRC
Dr Indra Joshi	NHSX

Apologies

Professor Sir Adrian Smith	The Alan Turing Institute
Kriti Sharma	AI for Good

Item 1: Chair and Ministerial welcome

- The Chair welcomed attendees and expressed apologies from other members who were unable to attend.
- Minister Whittingdale introduced himself, outlining the Government's ambitions for data and how it can improve lives and contribute to economic growth.
- Council members had an opportunity to ask questions of the Minister relating to his portfolio.
- Questions included the role of public sector data in Government, funding priorities across the Government, the ongoing role of CDEI, and the importance of digital infrastructure.

Item 2: Update from Government

Office for AI

- Officials updated on the recent work of the Office for AI and broader government where it relates to the AI Council, to highlight opportunities where members can advise the team and connect with the ecosystem.

UKRI

- A representative from EPSRC explained to members the process UKRI is taking into the Comprehensive Spending Review, including the work underway on UKRI's AI Review, the growth of the Alan Turing Institute, and where AI in the UK should develop.
- The representative acknowledged that UKRI's vision intersects neatly with the AI Council's forthcoming AI roadmap, and positively acknowledged the work undertaken to align messages between the two groups.
- Members broadly agreed that the Alan Turing Institute should grow towards becoming a nationwide brand that facilitates regional networks in specific areas of application where they are already strong.
- Members agreed that the AI community should be comfortable situating AI within the wider context of data and digitisation. There was also an acknowledgement that AI as a professional discipline should be separated from AI tools that are applied in the economy, and that the UK should be developing and selling those tools globally.

- Members decided that this broad conversation should continue with decision makers in Government and the wider ecosystem, to decide on a coherent narrative from which to develop trustworthy AI in the UK.

National Data Strategy team

- Officials updated on the recent launch of the National Data Strategy and explained the purpose of the consultation on the Strategy, which is open for 12 weeks, closing on the 2nd December 2020.

Item 3: Presentation: Digital Strategy

- Officials presented the current direction of the Government's upcoming refresh of the Digital Strategy, which was last detailed in 2017. While the Digital Strategy is a DCMS-owned product, this is a cross-Whitehall exercise that will take into account the progress since the last iteration, and the transformed policy landscape in which the UK now finds itself.
- Members agreed to feed into the development of the Digital Strategy where feasible.

Item 4: Presentation: AI collaboration risks

- Officials presented a methodology for a risk-based approach to addressing potentially dual-use AI technologies and applications.
- Members were invited to participate in a Steering Group to advise the Government further on these issues.

Item 5: Update from Council members

- Members updated on relevant activities for Council relevance.
- Progress has been made in a working group on legal mechanisms for data stewardship models, attended by a handful of Council members and others from the Royal Society and Law Society. The Ada Lovelace Institute is the secretariat.
- A report from this working group is coming out next month, and members were invited to review a draft and consider whether the AI Council can endorse the report.

Item 6: Breakout discussion on AI roadmap

- Members were invited to discuss in breakout groups how they may ensure their forthcoming AI roadmap has the desired impact.
- Discussions included future-proofing the Council's recommendations, focusing on areas with less Government support than others, effective engagement with policymakers and the broader ecosystem, and appropriately addressing the bigger picture across the UK.
- There were also wider discussions around algorithmic accountability and the importance of the AI Council participating with the wider community to ensure the public can feed back on the roadmap.

Item 7: Forward look

- Members briefly discussed how their work plan may develop over the coming year.
- While delivering and implementing the recommendations in their forthcoming roadmap will continue to be a priority, members also acknowledged the role of their working groups in this exercise, and a refreshed engagement with the ecosystem to help implement the roadmap.

Item 8: Other business

- The Chair suggested establishing a security sub-group within the Council, so that members can be more front-footed on related issues as they arise.
- The Council was notified of emerging work in DCMS on international digital standards, and were asked to advise on where the UK can be a leader and participate in the global conversation on AI standards.

AI Council Secretariat