

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL
10:00 - 12:30, Thursday 3rd December 2020
Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Ministerial attendance:

Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP [For Item 3] Secretary of State for BEIS

Council members:

Professor Pete Burnap	Cardiff University
Ann Cairns	Mastercard
Dr Claire Craig	The Queen's College, Oxford
Paul Clarke	Formerly Ocado
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
Professor Sir Mark Walport	Formerly UKRI and Government CSA
Marc Warner	Faculty

Officials:

Jay Ashton-Butler	Office for AI
Tim Cook	Office for AI
Dylan Evans	Office for AI
John Fitzpatrick [For Item 8]	Cabinet Office
Logan Graham	10DS (10 Data Science)
Iarla Kilbane-Dawe	Office for AI
Sarah Mackintosh [For Item 9]	BEIS
Gemma Peck [For Items 1-4]	BEIS
Katie Rhodes [For Item 8]	Cabinet Office
Annette Rusling [For Items 3-4]	BEIS
Susannah Storey [For Item 5]	DMCS
Nick Swanson	Office for AI
Geoffrey Thornton	Office for AI

Apologies

Alice Bentinck	Entrepreneur First
Professor Chris Bishop	Microsoft Research Lab
Kriti Sharma	AI for Good
Professor Sir Adrian Smith	The Alan Turing Institute

Item 1: Welcome and Chair's Update

- The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Alice Bentinck, Professor Chris Bishop, Kriti Sharma and Professor Sir Adrian Smith.
- The Chair gave an update on activity occurring since the last meeting of the Council, including the signing of a US-UK Statement of Intent on AI and the recent election of UK experts to the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) Steering Committee.
- The Chair thanked members for their input into the development of the Council's forthcoming AI Roadmap, which had followed over 50 meetings with members of the AI community alongside engagement of the wider ecosystem. Publication of the final document was expected in the coming weeks and was already influencing Government policy making.
- Two new members had been invited to join the AI Council and were expected to join the next quarterly meeting of the Council in March 2021.

Item 2: Office for AI Update

- Tim Cook (Acting Head, Office for AI) joined the Chair in thanking members for their recent engagement and advice to the Government, before providing an update on other recent developments.
- The Alan Turing Institute had announced the award of new AI Acceleration Fellowships, aimed at supporting the careers of some of the brightest and most ambitious AI researchers over the next five years.
- New analysis of admissions data had shown a diverse range of students were enrolling on AI and data science postgraduate conversion courses; of those awarded scholarships, 76 per cent of students were women, nearly half (45 per cent) were Black students and almost a quarter (24 per cent) were disabled students.
- The Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation had published the final report of their review into bias in algorithmic decision-making.
- The latest Global AI Index, published by Tortoise Media, had ranked the UK third in its annual benchmarking of nations based on their level of investment, innovation and implementation of artificial intelligence.

Item 3: Discussion with Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

- The Secretary of State thanked members for providing the Government with such comprehensive advice, including through the development of an AI Roadmap.
- The Government remained committed to boosting AI and data driven technologies, which had become central to everyday life and were seen as key components of the UK's transition to a digital economy.
- The Secretary of State set out the context and approach to developing a refreshed Industrial Strategy, referencing his recent speech to the CBI Annual Conference, the Government's Research and Development (R&D) Roadmap and the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution
- Members asked questions on the role of the skills system in supporting the UK's vision and ambition for science, research and innovation; and the potential for changes to the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) and Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) to further support the innovation economy.

Item 4: Industrial Strategy Update

- An official from the Industrial Strategy team provided further detail on the development of the Industrial Strategy Refresh within the context of a new EU relationship, post-COVID recovery and future Comprehensive Spending Review.
- A discussion followed during which members posed questions on the Government's commitment to increasing R&D expenditure; the Council's forthcoming AI Roadmap; the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy; and the role of overseas talent in underpinning excellence in research and innovation-led growth.

Item 5: DCMS update

- The Director General for Digital and Media Policy joined the meeting to provide an update on recent initiatives and activity across DCMS, including the development of a National Data Strategy and new Digital Strategy; the establishment of a new Digital Markets Unit; the outcome of the 2020 Spending Review; progress of the National Security and Infrastructure Bill; and recent elections to the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.
- The department was planning for a busy year ahead, with the UK assuming the Presidency of the G7 alongside hosting COP26.

Item 6: Discussion with Logan Graham (10DS)

- Logan Graham spoke about the role of artificial intelligence in supporting the industries of the future and the wider UK science and technology landscape.
- A discussion followed on the ambition and vision for growing the artificial intelligence industry in the UK; the organisational structures to support innovation; the UK's role in guiding the adoption and diffusion of AI; and the importance of long-term thinking and measuring outcomes.

Item 7: AI Council Roadmap

- The Chair reported on the positive reactions she had received to the ambitions set out in the Council's Roadmap during pre-publication engagement. It would be important to continue building support and advocacy for the Council's recommendations following publication in order to achieve the aims set out in the document.
- Officials set out how engagement with the wider ecosystem could inform strategic thinking on AI in the New Year, given the range of strategy work underway across Government. A discussion followed on the next steps and future engagement plans flowing from the publication of the Roadmap.

Item 8: Government Automation Taskforce

- Officials gave an update on the recent work and priorities of the Government Automation Taskforce.
- A set of standards was being developed to address the ethical considerations of automated and algorithmic decision-making. The aim was to provide departments with a guide for using algorithms or automated systems, complementing the existing Data Ethics Framework and recently published guide to using artificial intelligence in the public sector.
- Members put questions to officials and offered to provide further advice as the guidance developed.

Item 9: National Security and Investment Bill

- Members received an update from the Deputy Director for National Security and Investment (BEIS) on the progress of the National Security and Investment Bill and the purpose of secondary legislation to define the sectors subject to mandatory notification in the Bill.
- Prof. David Lane gave a summary of the key issues arising from the proposed new system and outlined the process and timeline for developing the AI Council's response to the public consultation.

Item 10: Any Other Business

- Members were reminded that the deadline for responding to the National Data Strategy had been extended until 9th December 2020.
- Dame Wendy Hall gave an update on the recent work of the Ada Lovelace Institute in examining the legal mechanisms for data stewardship.

AI Council Secretariat