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The Viscount Camrose
Minister for AI and Intellectual Property
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

By email

**Committee on
Standards in
Public Life**

11 July 2023

Dear Minister,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life regarding our 2020 report, [Artificial Intelligence and Public Standards](#), which sets out steps to ensure that high standards of conduct are upheld as AI is adopted more widely across the public sector.

The Committee is grateful for the [response](#) we received to our report in May 2021, which set out the government's views on some of our recommendations, and noted key developments in the AI policy landscape that were closely aligned with our report.

Three years on it is clear that AI developments have moved on at some pace. As such, we are following up the recommendations made in our report, writing to public bodies and regulators, with the intention of holding a seminar and publishing a formal update on progress later in the year. I would be pleased therefore, to hear what progress the government has made against recommendations 1 to 8 in our report, which are attached.

We are particularly interested to hear whether the government's light-touch approach to AI regulation set out in [A pro-innovation approach to AI regulation](#) has changed since it was consulted on. Similarly, I would be grateful for an update on the future functions of the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, and on government's plans for supporting existing regulators to regulate AI effectively in their sectors and remits.

I would be very happy to meet if this would be helpful.

I have also written to the Adviser to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister on Artificial Intelligence, Henry de Zoete, and have attached that letter for your information.

I will publish a copy of this letter on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Evans of Weardale, KCB DL



Chair, Committee on Standards in Public Life

Recommendations to government, national bodies and regulators

Recommendation 1

There are currently three different sets of ethical principles intended to guide the use of AI in the public sector. It is unclear how these work together and public bodies may be uncertain over which principles to follow.

- a. The public needs to understand the high level ethical principles that govern the use of AI in the public sector. The government should identify, endorse and promote these principles and outline the purpose, scope and respective standing of the three sets currently in use.
- b. The guidance by the Office for AI, Government Digital Service and the Alan Turing Institute on using AI in the public sector should be made easier to use and understand, and promoted extensively.

Recommendation 2

All public organisations should publish a statement on how their use of AI complies with relevant laws and regulations before they are deployed in public service delivery.

Recommendation 3

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) should develop guidance in partnership with the Alan Turing Institute and the CDEI on how public bodies should best comply with the Equality Act 2010.

Recommendation 4

Given the speed of development and implementation of AI, we recommend that there is a regulatory assurance body, which identifies gaps in the regulatory landscape and provides advice to individual regulators and government on the issues associated with AI.

We do not recommend the creation of a specific AI regulator, and recommend that all existing regulators should consider and respond to the regulatory requirements and impact of the growing use of AI in the fields for which they have responsibility.

The Committee endorses the government's intention for CDEI to perform a regulatory assurance role. The government should act swiftly to clarify the overall purpose of CDEI before setting it on an independent statutory footing.

Recommendation 5

Government should use its purchasing power in the market to set procurement requirements that ensure that private companies developing AI solutions for the public sector appropriately address public standards.

This should be achieved by ensuring provisions for ethical standards are considered early in the procurement process and explicitly written into tenders and contractual arrangements.

Recommendation 6

The Crown Commercial Service (CCS) should introduce practical tools as part of its new AI framework that help public bodies, and those delivering services to the public, find AI products and services that meet their ethical requirements.

Recommendation 7

Government should consider how an AI impact assessment requirement could be integrated into existing processes to evaluate the potential effects of AI on public standards. Such assessments should be mandatory and should be published.

Recommendation 8

Government should establish guidelines for public bodies about the declaration and disclosure of their AI systems.