

**Room G07  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ**

Henry de Zoete  
Adviser to the Prime Minister on Artificial Intelligence

*By email*

**Committee on  
Standards in  
Public Life**

**11 July 2023**

Dear Henry,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Adviser to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister on Artificial Intelligence.

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.

That report made a number of recommendations to government, regulators and public bodies, to assist in the development of a stronger and more coherent regulatory and governance framework for AI in the public sector, which are attached for your information.

Three years on it is clear that AI developments have moved on at some pace. As such, we are currently following up our recommendations, 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 have also written to the Minister for AI and Intellectual Property, Viscount Camrose, asking for an update on what progress the government has made against recommendations 1-8 in our report. I have attached that letter for your information.

I have been advised that you will have responsibility for coordinating AI strategy across government. To that end, I would be grateful to set up an introductory meeting with you. Please would you kindly get in touch with my Secretariat at [public@public-standards.gov.uk](mailto:public@public-standards.gov.uk) to arrange a date.

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

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **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.

### **Recommendations to public bodies and private providers of public services**

#### *Recommendation 9: Evaluating risks to public standards*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should assess the potential impact of a proposed AI system on public standards at project design stage, and ensure that the design of the system mitigates any standards risks identified. Standards review will need to occur every time a substantial change to the design of an AI system is made.

#### *Recommendation 10: Diversity*

Providers of public services, both public and private, must consciously tackle issues of bias and discrimination by ensuring they have taken into account a diverse range of behaviours, backgrounds and points of view. They must take into account the full range of diversity of the population and provide a fair and effective service.

#### *Recommendation 11: Upholding responsibility*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should ensure that responsibility for AI systems is clearly allocated and documented, and that operators of AI systems are able to exercise their responsibility in a meaningful way.

#### *Recommendation 12: Monitoring and evaluation*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should monitor and evaluate their AI systems to ensure they always operate as intended.

*Recommendation 13: Establishing oversight*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should set oversight mechanisms that allow for their AI systems to be properly scrutinised.

*Recommendation 14: Appeal and redress*

Providers of public services, both public and private, must always inform citizens of their right and method of appeal against automated and AI-assisted decisions.

*Recommendation 15: Training and education*

Providers of public services, both public and private, should ensure their employees working with AI systems undergo continuous training and education.