



Oversight Group for People's Panel on Digital ID

Terms of Reference

As agreed on Monday 20 April 2026

1. Background and context

UK government intends to introduce a national digital ID system by the end of this Parliament. The aim for the new digital ID is that it will:

- Be a modern, convenient way for people to prove who they are, which is secure and puts them more in control of their data compared to physical documents;
- Be an inclusive way for everyone to access an ID, without up-front charges;
- Help facilitate transformation in government, joining up of public services and supporting private sector innovation to make people's lives easier.

At its heart, this system is about making people's lives easier, and we want people in the UK to shape what it is and how it will work to ensure these objectives can be achieved, and there is trust and confidence in the system.

This is why the UK government is establishing a People's Panel on Digital ID as part of the broader consultation on digital ID proposals. The People's Panel on Digital ID will bring together members of the public from across the UK, from all walks of life, creating an opportunity for them to influence and inform design choices and policy proposals on digital ID.

Working with the public, through a process of deep deliberation over several days, the UK government will explore certain policy options in partnership with citizens to understand their expectations and help inform future decision making.

The UK government will be working with Ipsos UK and their partners to design and implement the People's Panel – Ipsos UK is an independent and impartial team with deep expertise in high quality and complex, large-scale deliberations.

2. Role of the Oversight Group for the People's Panel on Digital ID

Key to this process will be the Oversight Group (OG) that will advise on the design and delivery of the Panel; ensuring it provides an authentic and meaningful opportunity for the public to deliberate key policy options and influence decision making. The OG will be constituted until the publication of outputs from the deliberative process (expected Summer 2026), and will also provide support in considering how these outputs are used.

The OG will be engaged closely during the design of the deliberative workshops. This will include providing input into shaping the areas of focus for the workshops and related content. In particular, the OG will help to ensure that the material is comprehensive, balanced, and accessible to a lay audience and that the engagement process is robust, rigorous and transparent. It will also play a role in advising on how insights from the process are used in policy development and decision making.



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It is expected that the OG will input to, and provide comment on, the following:

- Sampling criteria for the recruitment of the People's Panel on Digital ID;
- Issues for exploration with the public and the framing of these;
- Detailed information providing stimulus (presentations, fact sheets, experts to be present at the events);
- Case studies, use cases and other materials to bring the issues to life and stimulate discussion;
- Structure and flow of workshop events; and
- Outputs of the process.

The role of the OG is advisory and, aside from the chair, members will be independent from the digital ID programme. The OG will provide guidance and input to the UK government digital ID taskforce within the remit of this Terms of Reference. It is the responsibility of the UK government to make decisions on the deliberative process, materials and dissemination of the outcomes, having considered the advice provided by the OG.

3. Membership and quoracy

The OG will bring together esteemed experts in digital, data and technology, civil liberties, inclusion and deliberative democracy as well as members of parliament and representatives from the House of Lords. Members should represent a range of different perspectives and be committed to open dialogue, mutual respect, tolerance of other views and willingness to see their own and others' opinions reviewed and discussed on their merits.

The OG membership is as follows (in alphabetical order):

- Baroness Hilary Armstrong of Hill Top, Chair Digital Inclusion Action Committee (DIAC)
- Rt. Hon. Alistair Carmichael MP
- Claudia Chwalisz, CEO, DemocracyNext
- Polly Curtis, CEO, Demos
- Matt Downie, CEO, Crisis
- Lord Jim Knight of Weymouth
- Baroness Nicky Morgan of Cotes
- Emma Stone, Director of Evidence and Engagement
- Jeni Tennison, Founder and CEO, Connected by Data

The OG will be chaired by a UK government minister and/or senior Cabinet Office Official. It will hold up to four hybrid meetings between March and July 2026. Ideally, members will be able to attend all meetings, however, we recognise this might not always be possible and therefore would hope members attend the majority. There will be contact via email in between meetings to review and comment on materials. The proposed dates (which may be subject to change) are as follows:

Tuesday 17 March

- Introduction to the project and each other.
- Provide check and challenge on proposed sample and skeleton structure for deliberative workshops.

Monday 20 April

- Ratify Terms of Reference



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- Briefing on detailed discussions guides and proposed stimulus for workshops 1-4.
- Initial comments ahead of longer review period.

Thursday 4 June

- Update on recruitment.
- Presentation of draft materials for workshop 5
- Feedback and discussion on workshop 5 materials.

TBC (likely w/c 29 June)

- Review outputs from the deliberative workshops and feed into the final report.

5. Confidentiality

Members, by virtue of their role on the OG, may have access to sensitive information not yet in the public domain and are therefore expected to maintain strict confidentiality and refrain from disclosing such information outside the agreed remit of the group.

Where it applies, members of the OG are subject to the provisions of the Official Secrets Act 1911 and Official Secrets Act 1989. Unauthorised disclosure of any information gained in the course of this membership, or its use by the member or others for personal gain or advancement, could result in the membership being terminated early, and/or criminal prosecution.

6. Minutes, recordings and transparency

Meetings may be recorded to aid in the production of minutes and notes. Recordings will be kept for reference only for the duration of the project and then deleted.

Minutes will be taken at Oversight Group meetings and these will be shared with members via email after each meeting. Members will have five working days to comment on meeting minutes. The membership of the group and the Terms of Reference will be published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/peoples-panel-on-digital-id>