



House of Commons
Foreign Affairs Committee

**Encoding values:
Putting tech at the
heart of UK foreign
policy—Government
Response to the
Committee's Third
Report**

**Fourth Special Report of Session
2022–23**

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Foreign Affairs Committee

The Foreign Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and its associated public bodies.

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Fourth Special Report

The Foreign Affairs Committee published its Third Report of Session 2022–23, [*Encoding values: Putting tech at the heart of UK foreign policy*](#), (HC 170) on 8 July 2022. The Government's Response was received on 3 October 2022 and is appended below.

Appendix: Government Response

Introduction

The Government welcomes the Foreign Affairs Committee's (FAC) report "*Encoding values: Putting tech at the heart of UK foreign policy*," published on 5 July 2022.

The Government acknowledges that critical and emerging technologies will transform our lives and those of generations to come. The Integrated Review has set the Government ambition for the UK to secure our status as a "science and technology superpower" by 2030, and sets out that we will do this by redoubling our commitment to research and development, bolstering our global network of innovation partnerships, and improving our national skills—including by attracting the world's best and brightest to the UK.

The upcoming International Technology Strategy builds on the vision set out in the Integrated Review and brings together existing Government digital and technology strategies to set out a clear framework for delivery, describing how we will champion our core principles, values and technology priorities on the international stage and achieve our ambitious vision by 2030. This Strategy is designed to ensure international engagement on technology across Government is coordinated, coherent and prioritised, and that our foreign and domestic agendas on technology are mutually supportive and maximise our strategic advantage.

The role of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) is to internationalise the UK's technology capabilities and promote, through our missions and people overseas, the UK as a technology leader. Other government departments and bodies, such as the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Office for Science and Technology Strategy (OSTS), will have a leading role to deliver our technology objectives within their respective areas of expertise and responsibility, both domestically and internationally. The FCDO is working alongside other government departments and with a wide range of partners, including those in industry and academia, to set out our international technology policy and to deliver our UK technology ambitions.

The Government agrees with the Committee's recommendations for the FCDO on the considerations and actions to take in developing our international technology policies. We will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure the UK is at the forefront and leading on technology issues.

This letter sets out the Government's response to each of the Committee's conclusions and recommendations. Some of the Committee's recommendations cover issues that require action by other Government departments, with others for the FCDO to address alone.

The Committee's text is in bold and the Government's response is in plain text. Paragraph numbers refer to the Committee's report.

Shaping and adapting to the changing role and influence of the nation state

1. *The growing influence of private companies in global technology governance, and on the norms and rules that shape our societies, has profound implications for the future role and identity of the nation-state. The Government has yet to demonstrate that it has seriously considered its role and influence within this new environment and how it might manage the consequences of these shifts in influence and identity. In the forthcoming International Technology Strategy, we recommend that the FCDO clearly articulates what it understands its future role in global tech governance to be and how it intends to engage with private companies and relevant multinational bodies to project UK norms and values in global policy-making fora. We further recommend that the FCDO identifies a Minister with clear responsibility for this work within the Department and sets out how its work interacts with that of other Government departments.* (Paragraph 11)

1.1 We accept the Committee's assessment of the growing influence of non-government entities in the technology landscape, and the potential implications of the UK government not establishing itself within this evolving environment, as leaders in the development of technology governance.

1.2 The UK Government recognises the important role that tech companies play in our society. Big Tech companies, for example Alphabet (including Google), Meta, Amazon, Apple and Microsoft are among the world's largest companies by market capitalisation. They are a fundamental part of our global digital infrastructure and engaging effectively with such organisations will be a key factor in the UK's success developing itself as a "science and technology superpower." The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is the lead minister for the five Big Tech companies, and holds biannual meetings with each of them. The FCDO recognises the importance of engaging with tech companies on strategic and foreign policy issues. Our US Tech Envoy, based in San Francisco, engages regularly with tech companies at their headquarters, and we are expanding the Tech Envoy network to increase this engagement with tech companies based in different regions.

1.3 The forthcoming International Technology Strategy recognises that to achieve our goals, governments cannot act alone. While governments and international organisations will continue to lead in shaping the future tech governance systems, we are clear on the need to take a multi-stakeholder approach. The strategy articulates the UK's commitment to ensuring we have a strong and varied network of international partnerships to shape the development and responsible use of technology. This is part of the broader drive to secure the UK's future international advantage, as highlighted in the National Cyber Strategy (NCS), which sets out our intention to build on existing engagement and take a more activist international leadership role to promote our interests and values in cyberspace. To achieve the UK's technology ambitions, we will draw on industry, finance, academia, and civil society to drive innovation, provide thought leadership and tackle global challenges. We will continue to push for strong industry participation in the development of international technology standards and governance, as they have a key role in shaping regulation, alongside other stakeholders.

1.4 Values-based governance and regulation is a key priority in the International Technology Strategy. The strategy places emphasis on the importance of the UK Government taking a leading role internationally in influencing and setting these rules, standards and norms that we want to see reflected in the design, development and use of technology and which will enable us to achieve our technology ambitions. We will promote our principles with partners, and through international fora we will influence and shape global governance in line with our principles, which will strengthen open societies, defend democratic values and promote human rights. We support this process by helping partner countries to build their awareness and capacity in relation to the benefits and risks of technology, and the importance of regulation and standards that support inclusive, responsible and sustainable technological and digital transformation.

1.5 HMG, including the FCDO, plays a proactive, leading role by working with partners and through international fora to shape governance, building coalitions to promote our interests, values and principles in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), G7, G20, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Freedom Online Coalition (FOC), Council of Europe (CoE), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations (UN) system, including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Through our engagement with the private sector, academia and civil society, our leadership in multilateral fora and development of strong bilateral relations with like-minded and middle-ground partners, friends and allies we will jointly shape the rules of the future technologies. The FCDO will build on existing work in the multilateral system related to cyber issues, recognising the drivers and impacts of emerging technologies read across to these established multilateral processes.

1.6 Minister Norman is the FCDO Minister responsible for Technology. The FCDO is working closely with departments across government that lead on technology policy, such as DCMS and BEIS, leveraging their policy expertise and relationships with technology companies to deliver the UK's technology ambitions internationally, including through the development of the International Technology Strategy and its implementation plan.

2. The UK's global technology leadership ambitions should be Government-led but will need to pull in significant support from the private sector as well as academia. There is an opportunity for the FCDO to exemplify the values articulated in the Integrated Review by leading on collaboration with the private sector and civil society, both in the UK and overseas, in the pursuit of its objectives. This should include working to ensure that the voices of smaller companies and less economically developed countries are heard in global fora. There is an opportunity for the Government to influence global best practice by sharing knowledge of the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and drawing upon the expertise of our world-class institutes. Paragraph 12)

2.1 As set out in the Integrated Review, it is vital that the UK grow the UK's science and technology power in pursuit of strategic advantage. Achieving this objective requires an integrated approach. HMG participates in a variety of multi-stakeholder fora and engages with external stakeholders from the private sector, academia and civil society to ensure diverse voices are heard in global tech governance discussions, for example through the Future Tech Forum in 2021.

2.2 The FCDO has strategic partnerships with private sector companies as part of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) Research & Development (R&D) support, including through our TRANSFORM programme with Unilever and Ernst & Young (EY), which are highlighted in the FAC report. In addition to Unilever and EY, working through a global network of social entrepreneurs and businesses we deliver a combination of patient grant capital, hands-on technical assistance and robust research, to strengthen the impact and reach of innovative business models and disruptive technology.

2.3 Some examples include R&D funding to support development of a clean energy product targeting the African market, as well as our work in Africa through our jointly-funded FCDO-Shell Foundation grant supporting the development a business model for a hybrid digital platform which bundles financing, farm inputs, advice, insurance and market access to farmers in Kenya. We also support the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) in Ukraine which improved coordination between humanitarian organisations and mobile network operations to ensure connectivity to vital information and services for refugees.

2.4 The UK is actively engaged in championing small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in international fora, notably the Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship in the OECD, the Micro and SME Working Group in the WTO and SME initiatives in the G20. This activity includes promotion of technology adoption and international collaboration. This draws in our work under the NCS with international partners to shape global governance to promote a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace, and with the global multi-stakeholder community to shape the development of global digital technical standards in the priority areas that matter most for upholding our democratic values.

2.5 The FCDO supports technology investment and expertise for the developing world. As set out in the [International Development Strategy](#) (IDS), expertise, evidence, scientific advances, and new and established technologies are critical for solving global development challenges. An ambition set in the IDS is to accelerate digital transformation for all, by investing in digital infrastructure and promoting affordable digital access; improving related policies and regulations; enhancing digital skills and supporting digital entrepreneurship and innovation; and building cybersecurity capacity for a free, open, peaceful, safe and secure cyberspace.

2.6 The UK seeks to provide effective, integrated support to countries to plan for their own sustained, long-term progress and resilience and to unleash the power of people and countries to take control of their own future. We will offer an alternative to that offered by authoritarian regimes; by sharing expertise to build capacity and bridge the technology divide, we will support our partners to make informed choices and drawing them closer to our principles, including through the development of a new FCDO technology Centre of Expertise. The technology Centre of Expertise will provide access to digital and technology expertise from the UK Government, private sector, civil society, and academia that supports countries to transform their economies in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

2.7 Through a blend of investments, collaborations and evidence generation, the FCDO supports cutting-edge technology development and the shaping of norms and standards in developing and partner countries. For example, in addition to our work with GSMA to bridge the digital divide, through the FCDO-DCMS Digital Access Programme (DAP), the

International Tech Hub Network which utilises HMG in-house and UK expertise, works to catalyse and stimulate innovation and technology on a local level, forging partnerships between international tech sectors and the UK, stimulating local digital economies, and building high-end digital skills in South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Indonesia, and Brazil. We have supported partner countries to effect systemic change through improved policies and regulations on digital transformation and to test technology and business models that enhances connectivity, skills and access to digital content and services.

2.8 We also work bilaterally to strengthen research and technology ecosystems in partner countries. For example, our work in Africa will strengthen established UK-Africa partnerships (including in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana), support shared knowledge and expertise (such as through FCDO support to the African Science Granting Councils Initiative, highlighted by UKCDR as a positive example of the UK's key role in strengthening global and equitable research capacity), and support the development of Africa's innovation eco-systems

2.9 We are committed to strengthening existing and establishing new links between governments, technology companies and research institutions who have global influence and will lead the way on developing emerging technologies.

3. The UK should work with allies to ensure global practice in frameworks designed to protect data, and to prevent our adversaries exporting data from around the world to build the massive data sets needed to develop algorithms to automate surveillance systems, military systems and disinformation systems. We need to think about data as a national security asset, which should be subject to an appropriate regime of export controls. Placing greater controls on the collection, aggregation and access to data available to China is a good first step to eliminating an obvious national-security vulnerability. (Paragraph 13)

3.1 The Government agrees with the Committee that global challenges such as those around data collection, aggregation and access are a national security liability. The upcoming International Technology Strategy includes a section on data as a key enabler of technologies and a priority for the Government internationally.

3.2 The [National Data Strategy](#), National Cyber Strategy and Integrated Review set out our approach to address threats to UK data. The UK Government takes its responsibility seriously to ensure that data and its supporting infrastructure is secure and resilient. We are addressing the highest areas of risk, domestically and in collaboration with international partners. We expect all those collecting and processing data in the UK to comply with our privacy laws, including not permitting overseas flows of personal data where those rights may not be protected. Organisations which fail to comply may be investigated by the Information Commissioner's Office and where appropriate subject to enforcement action, including fines.

3.3 The UK Government is actively countering attempts by authoritarian governments to influence others on the collection and exploitation of data in ways counter to UK interests. We do not believe introducing disproportionate restrictions on data transfers is the right response. Rather, the UK and allies such as Japan, Canada, the US and EU, advocate free

flows of data where there is trust and appropriate protection of data. Availability of data enhances our national security capabilities, as well as our economic and technological strengths, our relationships with partners, and our ability to combat shared threats.

3.4 We continue to adapt to China's growing presence—managing disagreements, defending our freedoms and cooperating where our interests align. As a result of the improvements to our resilience set out in the Integrated Review, we are able to engage China with confidence and remain open to Chinese trade and investment. The UK Government uses bilateral engagement opportunities with the Chinese Government to make the case against China's restrictive data laws, call for clarity for UK businesses processing data in China, and make the case for a fair and open approach.

4. We recommend that the FCDO prioritises engaging with product teams and technologists, rather than only policy teams, to gain a clearer understanding of the activities of companies that are developing and implementing new technologies, as well as helping to influence the activities of these companies. The Department will need to bring in and develop the internal skills and expertise it needs to effectively engage at this level. (Paragraph 16)

4.1 The FCDO agrees with the Committee's recommendation, to engage further with the technology sector, and on the need to upskill our staff to ensure technology is at the centre of how we work internationally. Policy teams across government departments lead on a wide range of existing, critical and emerging technology, working closely with industry, product teams and technologists. FCDO will work with these departments, such as DCMS, to access their support and expertise to inform foreign policy decisions.

4.2 We want the UK to have one of the most extensive and capable technology diplomacy networks to deliver the ambitious vision of the Integrated Review and objectives of the International Technology Strategy. The International Technology Strategy sets out the commitment to build capability and capacity across the HMG's overseas networks, to ensure our diplomats have the necessary expertise, skills, and experience to engage confidently on technology. The FCDO will draw on the technology policy expertise across HMG to build up the capability of the diplomatic network.

4.3 The FCDO utilises a breadth of expertise across our research analysts, and the HMG overseas networks, including Tech Envoys, the DIT/DCMS Digital Trade Network, Science and Innovation Network, Cyber network, the International Tech Hub Network (part of the UK Digital Access Programme), and Conflict, Stability and Security Fund officers to drive forward our international technology agenda. We are also working to mainstream technology in foreign policy, including through the development of a new technology policy curriculum to increase the baseline level of understanding of technology and foreign policy across the FCDO.

4.4 Building on the experience of our Tech Envoy to the US, the FCDO will also expand our Tech Envoy network to have greater global reach. The Tech Envoy network will provide greater visibility of UK tech leadership internationally, and will deepen FCDO engagement with key technology stakeholders across the entire spectrum of the UK's proactive and defensive tech interests—whether on public safety, prosperity, investment, national security, or science and innovation. Tech Envoys will be based in priority tech locations, and will engage with companies on tech issues at their headquarters, including

with product teams if necessary. The Tech Envoys will work with governments, the private sector, academia, and other stakeholders to support delivery of our strategy and promote the UK tech sector.

4.5 As part of the International Tech Strategy, the FCDO will also establish a secondment programme with the tech sector, to build skills, understanding, and networks between the FCDO and tech sector, and to strengthen the pipeline of future HMG tech leaders.

The UK's place in shaping the international order

5. The UK's position on technology standards vis-à-vis the US and EU remains unclear and the Government's stance on many elements of the Transatlantic Trade and Technology Partnership remain ambiguous. The UK therefore risks becoming a rule-taker rather than a rule-maker. The Government should clearly articulate its position on data sharing, privacy and private-sector regulation, so that it can establish a starting point for discussions on deeper cooperation with the US and the EU. This position should be set out within the forthcoming International Technology Strategy or a related policy document to inform the FCDO's efforts to influence standards and norms at the international level. (Paragraph 33)

5.1 The UK Government has articulated its position on data protection, privacy, and data sharing through the National Data Strategy and the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill. Alongside the National Data Strategy, DCMS also published a [policy framework](#) setting out HMG's priorities and criteria for policy interventions to facilitate responsible data access, data availability and data sharing, this included further detail on the UK Government's global approach to digital, data and technology as set out in the [UK Digital Strategy](#), all of which have informed the forthcoming International Technology Strategy.

5.2 The International Technology Strategy will be a key document which builds on existing strategies and policy by setting out the UK's approach for technology leadership on the global stage. The UK is leading the way internationally in this space, with other countries looking to the upcoming International Technology Strategy to shape their own approaches to technology and foreign policy. Data is a crucial enabler of technologies and vital to the UK economy. Internationally, the UK plays a key role in driving dialogues on global data governance. Under the 2021 UK Presidency, the G7 agreed an ambitious set of commitments together in the Roadmap for Cooperation on Data Free Flow with Trust. The UK continues to work closely with the US and EU to further our shared trade and technology objectives. We are already focused on delivering trade and technology cooperation with the EU and US through the provisions of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU, the US-UK Future of Atlantic Trade dialogues, and the UK-US landmark technology partnership announced at Carbis Bay in June 2021, through which we launched a joint UK/US Prize Challenge to accelerate the development of Privacy-Enhancing Technologies. We will continue to advance UK interests in trade and technology and explore further areas of cooperation with partners where mutually beneficial.

5.3 More broadly, the UK is playing a leading role in shaping the global conversation on digital regulation. The International Regulatory Coordination Strategy outlines our desire

to drive international collaboration to improve the UK's domestic regulatory environment and our standing internationally, and the Plan for Digital Regulation paper sets out the government's overall international regulatory approach.

6. We cannot meaningfully influence the global order without the cooperation and support of our partners. While there is an opportunity for the UK to exercise thought leadership, we cannot go it alone and should not seek to carve out a “fourth way” for the UK in global technology governance. We recommend that the FCDO leverages its diplomatic influence and wider relationships to promote mutual understanding among the world's different regulatory blocs, to facilitate a cohesive international approach to technology governance, based on the shared values of democracy, openness and human rights. (Paragraph 34)

6.1 The UK is well placed to be an international influencer, we are home to four of the world's top ten universities, ranked fourth in the Global Innovation Index, have highest in Europe for tech unicorns and recently surpassed a valuation of \$1 trillion for our technology sector, the third highest in the world. Leveraging our position and strengths in technology, we will ensure that the global technology ecosystem aligns with our values and using our strategic advantage to shape global decisions. We want to be at the forefront of shaping international thinking around technological innovation, contributing to the development of technical standards that promote interoperability and supporting open trade.

6.2 The International Technology Strategy makes having a values—based approach to technology governance and regulation a strategic priority. Our values and principles—based approach will allow us to shape the future of technology and global governance in a way that drives global progress, delivers societal benefits and security, and enables UK businesses to innovate and prosper.

6.3 We agree that the UK should not be seeking to carve out a ‘fourth way’ in global technology governance. The Government is instead proactively engaging our partners to build coalitions that promote our interests and values internationally while protecting our ability to act domestically. In line with the NCS, we will build on existing engagement to take a more progressive and proactive approach to shaping the frameworks that govern cyberspace and global technology to promote global economic growth and security, with the UK and our partners having greater influence over the development and implementation of international governance and standards frameworks.

6.4 We will play an active and coherent role across international fora, alongside allies including those in industry and academia. We will look to increase the UK's role in strategic, technology-focussed, multilateral organisations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Global Partnership on AI (GPAI). We will continue to build on the success of our 2021 G7 Presidency and the UK-hosted Future Tech Forum, and will continue to work with partners to raise awareness on the importance of standards, for example by working with the British Standards Institution in partner countries, and with partners in smaller groupings that contribute to wider global initiatives.

6.5 The UK is also leading, with Estonia, a Tech for Democracy Cohort as part of the US Summit for Democracy's Year of Action. The Cohort has brought a broad range

of countries, civil society organisations and tech companies together to look at how technology can strengthen democracy. The Cohort is focussed on three main strands; combating politically motivated Internet shutdowns and restrictions; the role of new technology in supporting democracy; and how technology can support good governance.

7. There is a strong case for the Government to establish deeper partnerships with “digital deciders” such as India, Singapore and Brazil. There is scope for the FCDO to have more dialogue with these countries and to form partnerships around the value of an open and global approach to tech rules and governance to counter the influence of authoritarian governments. The Government should increase its diplomatic efforts with countries who might otherwise align with models of digital authoritarianism, including by offering trade and investment opportunities in support of technologies that support democratic values and human rights. The Government should consider using funding streams such as the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) to support this work. (Paragraph 39)

7.1 The strategic competition between authoritarian and democratic values will define how technologies shape our future. Authoritarian regimes are increasingly using technology as a tool of oppression. Recognising that in the wrong hands, technology can be used to undermine freedoms and democracy, we will ensure that our investments, and the associated production and applications of new technologies are shaped by our core principles and values.

7.2 Partnerships and collaborations are central to our approach. Alongside strengthening our traditional relationships, we will continue to seek new partnerships which foster cooperation and greater alignment with our values, ensuring technologies promote freedom, not fear.

7.3 We will provide an alternative partnership to that offered by authoritarian regimes, in line with the highest international standards. There is need for a broad, united approach to increase resilience to challenges and threats presented by authoritarian regimes, to ensure that countries have a choice. The forthcoming International Technology Strategy sets out the UK's alternative offer to techno-authoritarianism by building partnerships and coalitions in line with our core democratic values to ensure technologies are used to promote economic growth, innovation and freedom.

7.4 The Government engages with emerging tech economies in multilateral fora and mini-lateral initiatives. During the UK's presidency of the 2021 G7, the Government invited Australia, India, Republic of Korea and South Africa to participate, and also brought emerging tech nations including Singapore, Kenya and Mexico into the conversation with major global tech leaders at the 2021 Future Tech Forum. These fora discussed the shared global risks we face with future technologies, and the opportunities that collaboration on tech governance provides, emphasising the importance of embedding open society and human rights principles into the future of tech governance.

7.5 We seek to strengthen partner institutions' science, technology and innovation capabilities, systems and structures. This supports countries to make informed choices on technology, including the risks, opportunities and appropriate governance mechanisms and helps to shape the international debate around responsible technology development, adoption and use. We will continue to challenge those that endorse an authoritarian approach.

7.6 This includes work under the NCS with middle-ground countries to demonstrate it is possible to address challenges in cyberspace without adopting authoritarian approaches, while enabling innovation, development and growth. We will support countries grappling with digitalisation to build legal and strategic communications expertise, to counter the influence of authoritarian states over the multi-stakeholder system.

7.7 The FCDO has invested in cybersecurity capacity building and on creating a more trusted and resilient cyber ecosystem in key countries for over 10 years and currently manages a portfolio of programmes under the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), with spending of £24.1m in financial year 2022–23. The CSSF also funds activities focused on digital safety and prevention of online gendered harms. Through the CSSF and Global Partnership in Action against Online Gendered Harms, for which the UK is a founding member, and together with the US, Denmark and others, we support safer online participation and voice, and promote democratic values. The FCDO concentrates effort with selected countries which are most important for achieving the objectives of the National Cyber Strategy, with particular focus on India, the Indo-Pacific region and Africa. This includes partnering with organisations that have regional influence, for example, the ASEAN-Singapore Cyber Capacity Building Centre in South-East Asia and the Organisation of American States in Latin America and the Caribbean. The FCDO works closely with DIT to ensure capacity building aligns with opportunities to drive trade in cyber services.

7.8 The FCDO leads Cyber Dialogues with a range of bilateral partners including India, Singapore and Brazil, as well as the Republic of Korea, Japan, Israel and other key international partners to promote inclusive, responsible and sustainable digital transformation. Through delivering Cyber Dialogues with stakeholders, we seek to build local capacity on digital development and establishing partnerships with telecom regulators. These are being supplemented by an increasing number of joint cyber and technology partnership meetings, as recently established by the Foreign Secretary with Australia.

Linking domestic and foreign policy: bolstering national capabilities to exert national influence

8. The integration of technology within UK foreign policy should reflect the intrinsic links between the UK's domestic capabilities and its global influence. The Government's recent measures to encourage growth and support start-ups within the UK technology sector are welcome, but they have been undermined by the Government's previous reticence to review and intervene in foreign investments that risk moving strategically important UK businesses overseas. This slow erosion of our domestic capabilities has implications for our ability to project influence internationally. In its response to this report, we ask that the FCDO sets out and then reports back to the Committee on its plans and progress in integrating this work between departments. (Paragraph 44)

8.1 We are clear on our intent to grow the UK's Science and Technology ecosystem as set out in the Integrated Review, the R&D Roadmap and Innovation Strategy. International research collaboration is central to our position as a science superpower, and our research sector needs to be both open and secure. As an open economy, we welcome foreign trade and investment where it supports UK growth and jobs. However, we will

not accept collaborations or investments which compromise our national security. It has always been the case that where we have concerns, we raise them, and where we need to intervene, we will.

8.2 The Government has taken significant steps to ensure the UK's international partnerships remain as secure as necessary, while remaining as open as possible. The National Security and Investment Act (NSI) fully entered into force on 4 January 2022 and gives the Government powers to identify and intervene in acquisitions of control over entities and assets in or linked to the UK that could create risks to national security. This marks the biggest upgrade of investment screening in the UK in 20 years and brings the government's powers in line with many other countries such as the US, Germany and Australia. This Act supports the UK's world-leading reputation for being an attractive place to invest and is about ensuring investment in the UK can continue with predictability and transparency while protecting national security.

8.3 In the first three months of operation 17 transactions were called in by the Business Secretary for detailed assessment. This includes the first transaction to be blocked under NSI, Beijing Infinite Vision Technology's acquisition of intellectual property from the University of Manchester. The Secretary of State found that, on the balance of probabilities, the acquisition presented national security risks relating to the dual-use applications of the technology and the potential that the technology could be used to build defence or technological capabilities which may present a national security threat to the UK.

8.4 The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) leads on administration of the Act, and the process involves collaboration with a number of government departments, including the FCDO, in order to bring sector expertise and wider knowledge to the assessment of cases. The FCDO considers the national security implications of planned deals and provides advice on foreign policy implications and diplomatic engagement. A dedicated FCDO team has been established to lead this work. The team coordinates input from overseas posts, policy leads, and the UK Intelligence Community (UKIC) to inform investment screening decisions. The team also engages on wider strategic issues such as economic security, human rights and emerging technology.

8.5 Across His Majesty's Government we are stepping up our engagement with a range of allies and like-minded international partners to safeguard our shared security from hostile investment and ensure the NSI regime represents global best practice. We have a long history of close international cooperation in this area.

Measuring FCDO progress in delivering on the Government's leadership ambitions

9. The FCDO's forthcoming International Technology Strategy should set out clear objectives and targeted actions for achieving them, to be used as a blueprint or framework that diplomats can easily use to guide their decisions and activities at Post level and to ensure a coherent approach across the FCDO's global network. (Paragraph 47)

9.1 The International Technology Strategy brings together the UK's Technology ambitions set out in the Integrated Review, the R&D Roadmap and Innovation Strategy and draws out the key UK technology objectives from across HMG technology strategies, such as the National Cyber Strategy, National AI Strategy, National Data Strategy, Digital

Strategy etc. to coordinate the UK's international engagement and maximise our global influence. Delivering the ambition set out in the International Technology Strategy will be a whole-government endeavour.

9.2 The International Technology Strategy provides a framework for how the UK will work internationally on technology, and will set out our top international priority actions to deliver the UK's technology ambitions. It will set out the UK Government's core principles and values for international engagement on technology, as well as our strategic priorities and corresponding priority international actions. The high level actions and priorities set out in the Strategy will guide the development of more detailed and targeted actions across our diplomatic network. These detailed actions will form part of an internal, cross-Government implementation plan, to ensure we take a coherent, government-wide approach to achieve the ambition set in this strategy, and will guide the activities undertaken by diplomats at Post.

10. We recommend that the FCDO designs and publishes in its forthcoming International Technology Strategy metrics on how it is supporting the Integrated Review's goal of establishing the UK as a science & tech superpower. Performance against these metrics should be set out in the Department's annual report and accounts. (Paragraph 48)

10.1 We recognise the importance of ensuring that actions have strong metrics against which to measure departmental performance. While the International Technology Strategy will focus on high level priorities and actions, the internal Government implementation plan will have agreed the cross-government leads, key milestones and performance metrics. It will set out the Government governance structure to oversee the delivery, implementation and success of the International Technology Strategy.

10.2 The FCDO will publish in its annual report and accounts data and information on international technology partnerships that are established in support of our objectives in the International Technology Strategy.

10.3 The FCDO will work closely with DCMS, OSTS, and other government departments, to ensure the plan fits within a broader UK science and technology approach that blends our domestic capabilities and our international ambitions.