



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP

Secretary of State for  
Science, Innovation and  
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100 Parliament Street  
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Greg Clark, MP  
Chair, Science and Technology Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Greg,

### **Publication of AI Regulation White Paper**

I am writing to you in your capacity as chair of the Science and Technology Committee. I am delighted that the government has today published the AI Regulation White Paper. You will be aware through your inquiry into the governance of AI that AI is already delivering fantastic social and economic benefits for real people – from improving NHS medical care to making transport safer.

To capitalise on the opportunities that AI presents and deliver on our ambition to strengthen our position as a global AI superpower, we need a clear, proportionate, and future-proof approach to AI regulation. Our White Paper puts safe innovation at its heart and instils British values into the AI ecosystem right from the start.

As AI is used in more and more areas, the complex patchwork of interacting legal frameworks that regulate it can leave risks unmitigated. Businesses and individuals can find regulatory requirements confusing to navigate. This stifles innovation, and prevents adoption of these technologies. On the other hand, an inflexible and heavy-handed approach to regulation could pose serious threats to the UK's position as a world-leading innovator in AI. Businesses have consistently asked for clear, proportionate regulatory requirements and better guidance and tools to support responsible innovation.

When we set out our proposals for a proportionate and pro-innovation approach in July last year, there was widespread support from industry, and the same principles have informed our White Paper. Our approach stands in stark contrast to the rigid approaches taken elsewhere which risk stifling innovation and putting huge burdens on small business. We undertook extensive engagement following publication of that paper - speaking to over 130 organisations from across industry, academia, the regulatory landscape and civil society. We listened and reflected, and our white paper is a big step forward in addressing the concerns and opportunities that we heard.



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I am proud to present a clear vision for responsible AI. Our proposed regulatory framework aims to support innovators by taking a proportionate, context-sensitive, risk based approach. The white paper covers:

- The five cross-cutting AI regulation principles underpinning the framework: **safety, security and robustness; appropriate transparency and explainability; fairness; accountability and governance; contestability and redress.** These five principles are a clear statement of what we think good, responsible, trustworthy AI looks like and reflects the values at the core of our society.
- In order to minimise disruption to the regulatory landscape and enable the flexibility needed to keep pace with technological advances **these principles will initially be issued on a non-statutory basis.**
- However, we anticipate that a **statutory duty for regulators to have ‘due regard’ to the principles may be required.**
- Some new central functions will be established by government. These will ensure that the overall framework is effective and that it achieves our pro-innovation objectives. **The new central functions will:**
  - **Promote innovation across the regulatory landscape** by ensuring a proportionate and pro-innovation approach to implementation
  - **Monitor and evaluate** the effectiveness of the overall regulatory framework and implementation of the principles
  - **Assess, monitor, and prioritise current and future risks** across the economy arising from the use of AI
  - **Conduct horizon scanning and gap analysis** to inform a coherent response to emerging AI technology trends
  - **Support delivery of testbeds and sandbox initiatives, as well as providing education and increasing awareness** to help AI innovators get AI technologies to market
  - **Educate and raise awareness to provide clarity to businesses and empower citizens** to make their voices heard as part of the ongoing iteration of the framework
  - **Promote interoperability with international regulatory frameworks**
- Working with partners such as the UK AI Standards Hub (led by the Alan Turing Institute) we will promote the use of **non-regulatory governance tools** such as assurance techniques, technical standards, and voluntary guidance
- We will continue to **work with international partners** to ensure interoperability between global approaches - this makes it easier for UK businesses to sell products and services abroad and attracts overseas investment to the whole of the UK.



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The full text of the White Paper can be found [here](#). A consultation to inform the further development of our proposals will follow and we are encouraging engagement from businesses, regulators, academia and individuals.

The AI Regulation White Paper is the latest step taken by the government to **strengthen the UK's position as a global leader in AI**, harness AI's ability to **drive growth and prosperity**, and **increase public trust** in AI.

The Committee's inquiry into the governance of AI has been a valuable resource for the development of the White Paper and I look forward to discussing our new approach with the Committee in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON MICHELLE DONELAN MP**

Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology