



Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

The Rt Hon the Baroness Stowell of Beeston MBE
Chair of the Select Committee on Communications
and Digital
House of Lords
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Dear Baroness Stowell,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September, requesting further information on the steps taken to address potential conflicts of interest in relation to Ian Hogarth's role as Chair of the Frontier AI Taskforce.

As the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), I undertook a full review of Mr Hogarth's potential conflicts of interest and put in place measures, agreed jointly with Mr Hogarth, to address them. Mr Hogarth and I have signed a joint statement that sets out these measures. This statement is commercially sensitive and it would not be appropriate to put this in the public domain. I would like, however, to summarise the approach we have taken to provide reassurance to the Committee.

The Taskforce is subject to the same conflict of interest procedures as the rest of the department. This means that all appointments comply with the normal DSIT conflicts of interest policy and will be subject to the standard business appointment rules when their term comes to an end. As such, Mr Hogarth and DSIT have a responsibility to identify and address any actual, potential or perceived personal or business interests which may conflict, or may be perceived to conflict, with the Chair's public duties. Mr Hogarth agreed to a series of mitigations to manage any identified potential conflicts of interest. Mr Hogarth and I have been through his direct and indirect holdings in detail, and are putting in place appropriate mitigations for each one, dependent on both the nature of the business and the nature of his holding. Regular checks and controls will also be in place to respond to the dynamic development of the Taskforce's scope and work programme.

If helpful, I would be happy to meet to discuss the steps taken in greater detail.

Sarah Munby