



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Viscount Camrose
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Science, Innovation &
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Baroness Stowell
House of Lords
London
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Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Baroness Stowell,

Last week I presented evidence to your Committee on Large Language Models, on Tuesday 28 November 2023. I provided evidence on the ongoing work on Large Language Models and Artificial Intelligence (AI) more broadly, led by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology.

During my session, I offered to write to the committee with further detail on three areas which the Committee were keen to understand. These included:

1. The Frontier AI Task Force's spend to date;
2. The AI Safety Institute's budget, and existing and planned spend;
3. The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed directly within the Central AI Risk Function.

I would first like to address the Committee's questions on the budget and spending on the AI Safety Institute, which is an evolution of the Frontier AI Taskforce. At the AI Safety Summit at Bletchley Park, we announced our intention to put the work of the taskforce on a permanent footing and moved to establish the AI Safety Institute as a new body to lead technical work on AI safety.

At the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor confirmed funding of £100m for the AI Safety Institute across 23/24 and 24/25. The budget for the AI Safety Institute in 2023/24 is £35.5m, of which £30.75 is capital departmental expenditure limit (CDEL) and £4.75m is resource departmental expenditure limit (RDEL). In 2024/25, the indicative budget is £64.5m.

The majority of spending by the AISI will be on safety research and will be a mix of staffing costs, infrastructure and contractual arrangements. We believe the bulk of this work meets the criteria for Research and Development and would therefore be classed as capital spending. With regard to your question on actual spend to date, given we are in the middle of the financial year and the Institute was launched with a clear and urgent mission of establishing a testing capability, it is in the process of reviewing and prioritising its spending. I will write to the Committee to update on the latest position closer to the end of the financial year.

The Committee wanted to understand the resourcing within the newly formed central AI function.

As set out in the White Paper, we have committed to establishing a central function to conduct a number of activities including: identifying, monitoring and assessing risks across the AI ecosystem; supporting regulatory coordination and capabilities; and, enabling effective evaluation of our approach.

We have begun establishing the central functions outlined in the White Paper on AI Regulation but they are still in development. Currently, the central function is made up of three teams spanning risk and horizon scanning, regulator coordination and capabilities and monitoring and evaluation. The total present number of FTE across all central functions is 23 FTE, 10 of which are in the risk team, while the remaining 13 are in the Regulator Coordination and Delivery Team, including analytical support. The teams bring together a mix of expertise including legal, regulatory, AI forecasting, ethics and economic backgrounds alongside civil service.

We will set out more details on the central function and its proposed next steps through the White Paper response.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to address their questions. I would be happy to provide further detail, should the Committee have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Camrose', written in a cursive style.

Viscount Camrose
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology**