



Dame Chi Onwurah MP
Science, Innovation and Technology
Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

1st April 2026

Dear Dame Chi,

I am writing to provide an update on how the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) is delivering 'A roadmap for modern digital government 2025-2030'. Since the roadmap was published, we have made a deliberate choice to focus our technical resources where they can have the most immediate and positive impact on the day-to-day lives of British citizens.

Progress so far

We have already made significant progress since the oral evidence session on the digital centre of government in November.

- **A roadmap for modern digital government:** We published the Roadmap, which sets out how every corner of the state is using technology to make government work for the citizens it serves. It's an action plan for the whole of the public sector, bringing together some of the most important products, platforms and transformation initiatives planned between now and 2030.
- **AI tutors:** We announced that from Summer term this year, there will be teacher-led co-creation of AI tutoring tools with industry. Up to 450,000 children from disadvantaged backgrounds could benefit from safe AI powered tutoring tools providing personalised, one-to-one learning support – levelling the playing field for those who cannot afford private tutors.
- **CustomerFirst:** We launched CustomerFirst, a new team in DSIT who will look to build services that make use of AI and modern solutions to mirror excellent customer services in the best of the private sector – from modern banking and online shopping to utilities.
- **Planning:** We've further rolled out a new AI tool which can scan hundreds of files in seconds – making it easier to make home improvements, while turbocharging the Plan for Change milestone to build 1.5 million homes.

At a time when many people across the country are feeling the pressure on frontline services, we must prioritise the tools that provide the greatest direct relief to the public. To achieve this, we are refocusing our efforts away from internal administrative projects and toward the essential services used by disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

Updates to key commitments

To accelerate our support for the public, we have reviewed our current portfolio and made the following strategic changes:

- **Pausing the Digital Sourcing Strategy until 1 May 2026:** We are moving our focus from writing new guidance for officials to the active work of the Digital Commercial Centre of Excellence. This team is currently renegotiating major technology contracts to secure taxpayer savings, which we will reinvest into the digital foundations that keep frontline services running reliably.

- **Closing internal AI pilots to focus on frontline “big bets”:** Our early experiments, including Parlex, Redbox, Caddy, and Medguard, successfully showed how AI can improve workplace efficiency. However, several of these are now superseded by more modern, widely available platforms. By closing these internal pilots and sharing our findings through the AI Knowledge Hub, we can redirect our expert teams to solve deep-rooted issues in areas like social housing and education. We will continue to develop only those tools with the highest public impact, such as ‘Extract’ and ‘Consult’.
- **Refocusing the Data and AI Ethics Framework into the National Data Library:** While the ethical guidance we produced remains a vital resource on GOV.UK, we are now prioritising the practical use of data for the common good. This allows us to build the actual technical plumbing (the API Mandate) required for the National Data Library. For the citizen, this means their data is handled more securely and can be used more effectively to improve public services.

Continuing our commitment to a modern digital government

Making these changes allows us to move faster on our most urgent task: replacing outdated systems. When aging government systems fail, it is the people who do not have a safety net who suffer the most. By sharpening our focus, we are ensuring that every citizen receives a faster, more dependable service that they can rely on during difficult times.

I'd also like to confirm that we continue to deliver at pace on other structural reforms needed outlined in the roadmap, for example continuing the mandatory rollout of the Algorithmic Transparency Recording Standard (ATRS) where we remain on schedule to publish records for all identified in-scope tools. Furthermore, we are progressing with the refinement of the Government Digital and Data Pay Framework to ensure we can attract and retain the specialist talent required to deliver these high-impact programmes.

Our primary duty is to deliver the biggest possible impact for the people of this country, and so that is where we now look to build on our work. I would be happy to host the committee in the Whitechapel Building for a demonstration of how these prioritised tools are already beginning to do just that.

Yours sincerely,


Rt Hon. Ian Murray MP
Minister for Digital Government and Data