



Cabinet Office
Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Rt Hon. Louise Haigh MP
First Secretary of State
and Chancellor of the
Duchy of Lancaster

Rt Hon. Jonathan Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for
Business, Innovation,
Science and Trade and
President of the Board
of Trade

Rt Hon. Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State for
Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Dame Chi Onwurah MP
Chair - Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
House of Commons, Palace of Westminster
London, SW1A 0AA
[By email]

8 September 2026

Dear Dame Chi,

Machinery of Government Changes

Thank you for your letter of 3 August regarding the recent Machinery of Government changes, and in particular the transfer of functions from the former Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). We are glad you have received assurances that the important work of the Science, Innovation and Technology committee will continue. And we recognise the importance of the questions you raise in terms of providing clarity for both Parliament and those staff affected by the transition.

Distribution of former DSIT functions

The Prime Minister has made a number of changes to the Machinery of Government to rewire the state to deliver a stronger, more strategic centre which acts as the engine room for driving economic growth across the whole country. These changes include

transforming how the Government is structured to approach science, innovation, and technology. This reflects that the UK stands at a critical juncture where unprecedented global changes demand that we secure our position as a world leader in AI, science and technology. In this context, we cannot see science and technology as an isolated issue, limited to one department. Instead it is a major priority that cuts across the whole of government and is vital to the UK's future economic prosperity.

The new structures bring together complementary responsibilities, sharpen accountability for delivery, and ensure that government is better placed to support the development and adoption of new technologies. We are committed to working closely across departments to deliver all aspects of the Government's ambitious science, innovation and technology agenda. The overall role for each of our departments will be as follows:

- **Office for the Prime Minister and Cabinet (OPMC)** - The AI Taskforce, chaired by Lord Vallance, will drive the Government's overall strategy on AI, to unlock the opportunities it holds for growth, prosperity and transformation. The OPMC will also have responsibility for the AI Economics Institute (jointly with His Majesty's Treasury) and the AI Security Institute. It will take the lead on AI adoption across the Civil Service, reflecting the urgency of delivering that transformation for the benefit of people across the country.
- **Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST)** - Will be responsible for AI policy (including growth, innovation and infrastructure), as well as frontier and emerging technologies (such as quantum, robotics and semiconductors). It will also have responsibility for science and innovation (including, but not limited to, sponsorship of the Government Office for Science, Met Office and UK Research and Innovation). This approach reflects our belief that innovation and technology are fundamental to economic growth and economic security. By bringing together these responsibilities with those for business growth, investment and trade, we are creating a more powerful platform to facilitate world-class innovation, to support companies from breakthrough ideas and research excellence through to commercialisation, scaling and exporting, and to fortify the UK's global leadership in this space.
- **Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)** - Will hold a critical role in supporting the sectors that define modern Britain and help tell our national story. The technologies shaping our economy are also transforming how people create, communicate, learn, participate and access public services. By expanding DCMS's remit to include responsibility for tech sector oversight and digital, including: digital skills, digital infrastructure and connectivity, cyber security, and the delivery of a modern digital government, we are enabling DCMS to lead the transformation of public services while strengthening and growing the digital, cyber and information foundations on which our economy and society depend.

Work is underway to finalise arrangements for a small number of policy areas, as well as distribute former DSIT corporate and enabling functions. We will update the Committee once these arrangements have been finalised.

Transition Timetable

Significant work has been undertaken across our departments to enable a swift transfer of functions and put in place the necessary cross-departmental architecture to ensure that the implementation of these changes delivers on the Prime Minister's ambition, drawing upon lessons from recent Machinery of Government changes.

The majority of staff are already working in their new roles. We expect to provide clarity to the remaining staff (e.g. those working in corporate functions) this quarter. There will then be further work to formally transfer each role following on from this. As with all transfers, we will comply with the full requirements of the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers ("COSOP").

Ministerial portfolios

The Prime Minister has made the following ministerial appointments to support work across Science, Innovation and Technology:

- The Rt Hon Kanishka Narayan, Minister of State (attending Cabinet) for AI (joint OPMC-BIST)
- Chris McDonald, Minister of State for Science, Innovation and Investment (joint BIST-DHSC)
- The Rt Hon Ian Murray, Minister of State for Creative Industries, Media and Online Safety (DCMS)
- Vicky Foxcroft, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Youth, Gambling, Digital Inclusion, Civil Society and Loneliness (DCMS)
- Stephanie Peacock, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Sport, Tourism, Place and Digital Government (DCMS)
- Baroness Lloyd CBE, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Space, Cyber and Regulatory Reform (Lords) (joint BIST-DCMS)

We will publish full portfolios on GOV.UK and update the Committee once these are available.

Together, our departments are committed to building on the UK's extraordinary strengths, including our world-leading universities, a vibrant start-up ecosystem, globally significant technology businesses, deep pools of investment, and exceptional talent. Our task now is to bring those strengths together more effectively through smart and proportionate regulation, competitive markets, strong international partnerships, and a stable environment for long-term investment. We look forward to engaging further on these matters with your Committee as opportunities arise.

We are also copying this letter to the Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Haigh". The script is fluid and cursive.

THE RT HON LOUISE HAIGH MP

First Secretary of State and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Reynolds". The script is cursive and slightly slanted.

THE RT HON JONATHAN REYNOLDS MP

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade and President of the Board of Trade

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Lisa Nandy". The script is cursive and elegant.

THE RT HON LISA NANDY MP

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport