



Rt Hon. Kanishka Narayan MP
Minister for Artificial Intelligence
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Rt Hon. Liam Byrne MP
Chair of the Business, Innovation, Science and Trade Committee

12 October 2026

Dear Liam,

I am writing to draw your attention to a written ministerial statement I published today, regarding the Government's ongoing action to strengthen the UK's resilience against the risks posed by increasingly powerful artificial intelligence.

As AI systems become more capable and autonomous, they present new risks for individuals, businesses, and national security. The Government's first responsibility is to protect the public. Therefore, we are taking further action to strengthen government cyber defences using frontier AI, establish a specialist capability to respond to major incidents involving agentic AI, and consider how the Cyber Security and Resilience Bill can better protect essential services against emerging threats.

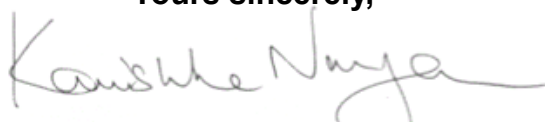
My statement highlighted the following Government interventions:

- **Independent Testing of Advanced AI:** The UK's AI Security Institute, powered by over 100 technical experts, continues to lead global efforts in independent AI scrutiny to ensure the Government does not rely solely on developer self-assessment. Through recent international diplomacy and collaboration with major AI labs, AISI scientists are currently evaluating the latest generation of powerful models (including Gemini 4 Argon) prior to their release to identify risks and test critical safeguards.
- **Frontier AI Hardening Across Government:** Following successful pilots by the Government Cyber Unit that identified and fixed 1,352 vulnerabilities across 18 departments, the Government is urgently expanding our frontier AI hardening programme across the public sector. We will continue to work across Government Departments to address weaknesses in highest risk systems. This marks an important step towards a broader UK Government capability for use of AI to support cyber defence and resilience.
- **Agentic AI Incident Response:** To address the growing risks of autonomous AI agents acting beyond their instructions, the UK Government is developing formal response plans for incidents causing serious harm. In collaboration with the National Cyber Security Centre, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the AI Security Institute, these initial steps will enable the government to swiftly investigate root causes, contain emerging risks, and support those affected.

- **Cyber Security and Resilience Bill:** As the Cyber Security and Resilience Bill progresses through the House of Lords, the Government is exploring options to strengthen the regime against advancing AI cyber and loss-of-control risks. Working with parliamentarians, technical experts, and operators, proposals will focus on near-miss reporting, organisation-wide risk reduction, and post-incident learning to prevent future harm.
- **Verification & Strategy:** As AI systems become more capable, effective risk mitigation may increasingly depend on whether important claims about their development and operation can be independently verified. The UK has a rich history of hardware innovation, and the Government will explore how that British expertise can help strengthen this central challenge in AI security.
- **The Prime Minister's AI Taskforce:** These are just the first steps on a longer journey Britain needs to take to seize AI's potential. That wider scheme of work is being spearheaded by the AI Taskforce, reporting directly to the Prime Minister and chaired by Lord Vallance.
- **A Shared Responsibility:** Government cannot do this alone. AI is increasing the speed, scale and efficiency of attacks, and every business has a responsibility to stay secure against them. The Security Minister will also be outlining this Government's approach to cyber security for the age of AI in the upcoming National Cyber Action Plan, with a national call to action for all organisations and businesses on this shared responsibility.

The Government remains committed to keeping Parliament fully informed as we work to ensure the UK remains at the forefront of AI innovation while safeguarding the public.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kanishka Narayan', written in a cursive style.

Rt. Hon Kanishka Narayan MP
Minister for Artificial Intelligence