



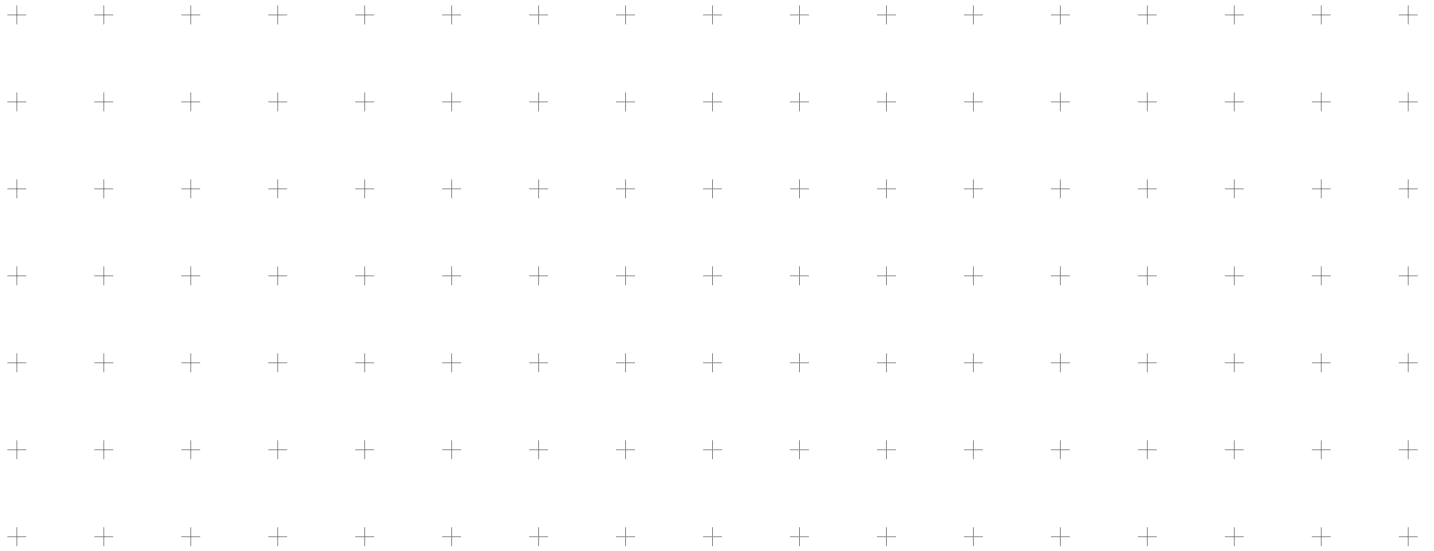
SAFE SUSTAINABLE EMPOWERING

**TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION POLICY
FOR THE UK'S DIGITAL FUTURE**

July 2024



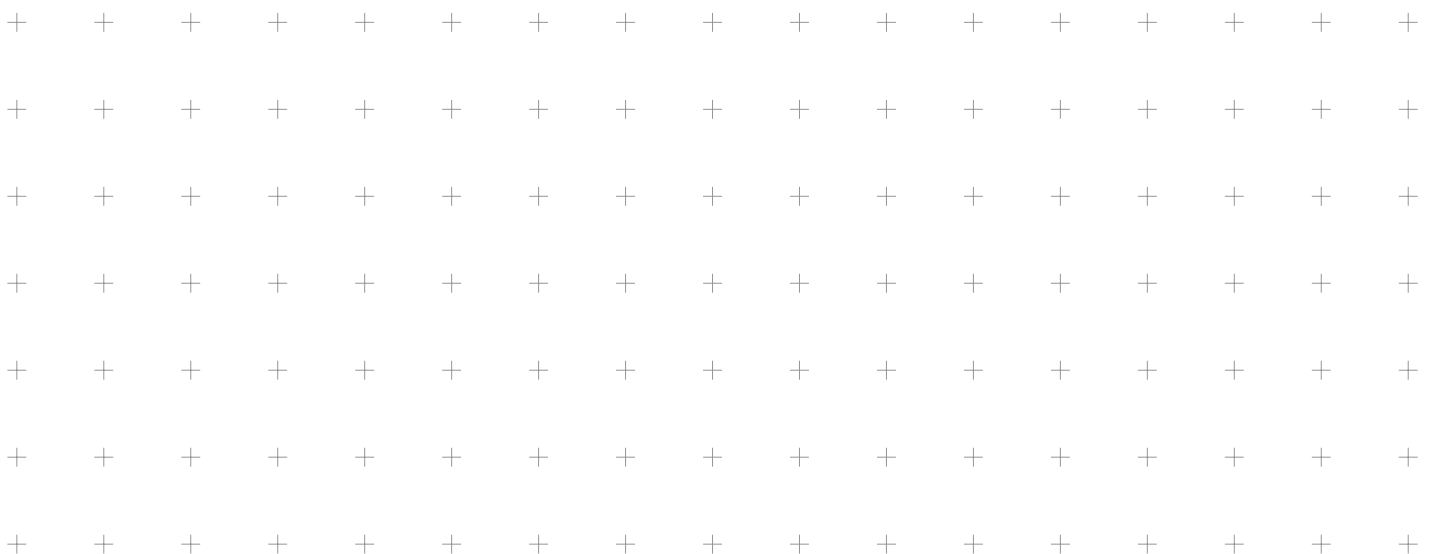
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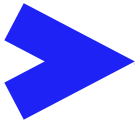


This proposal outlines a technology innovation policy for a prosperous, secure, and sustainable Britain that works for everyone, focusing on:

- A Digital Economy that Works for the UK**
- Clean Energy and Secure Infrastructure**
- Rights-Based Data and Internet Governance**

It points the UK toward a digital industrial strategy for the AI age and a rights-based digital society that ensures everyone can participate in the benefits of tech-driven growth.





A DIGITAL ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR THE UK

DEVELOP AN INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY FOR THE AI AGE

Support responsible digital growth in the UK [by applying safe, responsible, and ethical AI to the economy](#). Ensure the playing field is fair for UK businesses, ensuring a diverse array of companies – not just the world’s biggest players – can operate at different levels of the digital technology ‘stack’.

This includes making sure new tech like Generative AI does not [violate existing intellectual property regimes](#), that the UK has the national capacity needed for large-scale AI systems in the short- and medium-term, and the country’s capacity to govern emerging technologies is strengthened.

MAKE UK EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS FIT FOR THE AI AGE

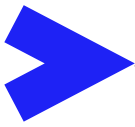
[Wide-ranging AI and work legislation](#), either standalone or as part of a wider AI Act, will ensure that the law is fit for purpose to protect workers who are increasingly hired, fired, and managed by AI and algorithmic systems.

This must include protecting workers’ right to challenge and review decisions made by automated systems and banning the use of pseudo-scientific emotion recognition software in the workplace.

COMMIT TO UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING FOR THE AI AGE

Growing the talent pool for AI-enhanced jobs means committing to lifelong education and working with industry, civil society, and trade unions to upskill and reskill the UK workforce. Helping workers develop new AI-relevant skills will help employers realise productivity gains and aid in the transition to changing job markets.

These steps are crucial to ensure that AI technologies do not make today’s inequalities worse. While predictions show the potential for net job gains from AI, research [scenarios predict varying levels of job loss along the way](#), with [some sectors of society more at risk](#) than others. Provisions must be made for increased social security to mitigate any large-scale job losses.



CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURE INFRASTRUCTURE

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION

Ensure that digital infrastructure expansion delivers benefits for the UK by not allowing the world's largest tech companies to 'crowd out' domestic needs, and supporting growth that fuels UK productivity.

Guarantee transparency and democratic decision-making in the building of new digital infrastructure, ensuring that large companies consult with local communities.

Collect and publish environmental and sustainability information on [large-scale digital infrastructure such as data centres](#) to ensure the UK makes progress on Net Zero goals while expanding growth in AI and other emerging technologies.

SECURE DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Continue to prioritise the security of digital infrastructure, including protection from threats to physical infrastructure and software attacks.

Enforce stringent cybersecurity measures for all Internet Service Providers and shore up social and cultural factors for safe cyber infrastructure.

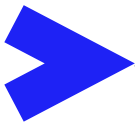
Implement a nationwide infrastructure audit on cybersecurity and consider a new certification scheme on governance.

SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL GROWTH POWERED BY GREEN ENERGY

Establish timelines and measurable targets to ensure government tech and innovation projects achieve carbon neutrality.

Provide financial incentives to companies that meet established targets, ensuring that those targets are meaningful to avoid greenwashing.

Continue to invest in smart grid management and grid capacity to match the [increasing energy demands of the digital sector](#). Support research at the intersection of AI and Net Zero solutions.



RIGHTS-BASED DATA AND INTERNET GOVERNANCE

CLARIFY REGULATORY STANDARDS AND ENHANCE REGULATOR CAPACITY

Issue central guidance to regulators via the new Regulatory Innovation Office, or issue new legislation, to clarify rules and ensure joined-up regulation in areas including the [use of personal data to train AI models](#) and AI and intellectual property.

Ensure companies building AI models (from foundation to application stage) disclose training data to regulators and researchers for the purpose of holding companies to account in line with regulations.

STRENGTHEN PROTECTIONS AGAINST BIAS IN AI SYSTEMS

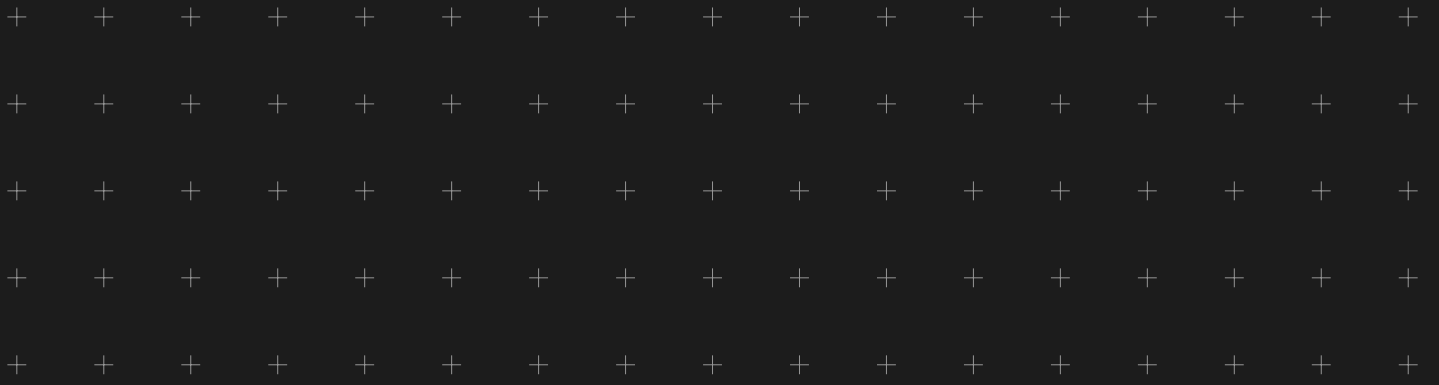
Ensure private and public sector organisations deploying digital systems pay due regard to protected characteristics, acknowledging that all datasets contain bias and that bias in applications such as [Facial Recognition Technology](#) or [workplace monitoring](#) can have detrimental effects on people's lives.

Risk assessments should be paired with regular human reviews of systems, transparency of decision-making processes, and the right to appeal decisions. Further, do not roll out untested digital systems on vulnerable communities [such as asylum seekers](#).

SAFE AND INCLUSIVE ONLINE SPACES

Implement robust standards and voluntary codes of practice for social platforms to ensure [democratic and social inclusion, and online safety](#). Such standards must ensure women and minorities in particular are not shut out of online spaces due to harassment, trolling, or threats. Emerging risks from bot farms and deepfakes must be given particular attention.

Researchers [should be given access to social media data](#) to help regulators and others understand the health of online spaces and to identify emerging online risks.



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