

Technology and Data Ethics Inquiry Call for Evidence

Introduction

Policy Connect and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Data Analytics are launching their inquiry into the future of technology and data ethics.

In late-2017, the Government established a new Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation. As a result of this – policy makers and experts have a key role to play in formulating the role and remit of the Centre, as well as the wider regulatory and legislative agenda around the use of big data.

The APGDA has established an expert steering group, co-chaired by Labour MP Darren Jones and Conservative MP Lee Rowley. Together, this group will undertake an inquiry process which brings together parliamentarians and industry figures to discuss four key areas affected by the rise of new technologies. The group will also consider general matters pertaining to the ethical use of personal data. These roundtables will take place over between November 2018 and January 2019 in the House of Commons.

- **Tuesday 27th November 2018** Education
- **Tuesday 4th December 2018** Autonomous Vehicles
- **Tuesday 8th January 2019** Health
- **Tuesday 15th January 2019** Policing

Issues that are raised during these roundtables, as well as from wider studies and submitted evidence, will be collated into a report on Data and Technology Ethics. The APGDA intends to launch this report in **early summer 2019**.

The inquiry intends to provide policy recommendations that will allow the United Kingdom to be at the forefront of new technological developments, whilst adopting forward-thinking approaches to ethical concerns and regulations.

The key area of concentration in this area is one of trust. This encompasses consumer trust, business confidence, and the trade-offs between privacy and progress that are inherent in the utilisation of big data. We will also examine the need for a “backstop” for the enforcement of trust in the tech sphere when the first line of trust is broken.

What we are looking for

The Data and Technology Ethics Inquiry will be looking at the challenges around **trust** in the use of data and technology. These areas include business and consumer trust, as well as the future challenges around the ethical uses of technology.

Your submissions can be as detailed or as brief as you feel appropriate.

The key inquiry questions within the four themes are:

- Where is the government seen as being particularly **strong** or **weak** on the use and promotion of big data in the wider economy?
- How can government and businesses promote **trust** within the public sphere?
- **What emerging technologies are** making use of big data in new ways?
- How to reconcile **security** and **privacy** in the public sphere when regulating technology?
- Who owns data, with regard to the rise of the '**digital divide**' between individuals, the state and private business?
- What changes in the nature of **informed consent** have there been since the introduction of GDPR?
- Can '**social consent**' replace individual consent?
- To what level can 'social benefit' **override** personal privacy and use of data by public institutions?

We are **particularly interested** in case studies in the following areas:

- **Healthcare:** New medical treatments and medicines may result from "mining" NHS, yet personal medical data is highly sensitive and personal so individuals may not want this to be visible
- **Automated vehicles:** Self-driving vehicles would represent a leap forwards in technology, with potential social and safety benefits, yet clear transparency and liability area hard to determine when something goes wrong in a system that uses algorithms
- **Education:** Universities and colleges can learn a lot about students behaviour and use predictive analytics to target those with specific needs or who may be about to drop out of a course, significantly improving their life outcomes, however monitoring student attendance, library use, internet browsing, etc. may be viewed as undue surveillance
- **Policing:** Predictive analytics using databases of crimes and individuals have been investigated to prevent organised crime and terrorism giving police tools to help distribute and plan resources, however there are outstanding ethical questions about how data will be collected and processed, and where the limits of acceptable behaviour lie in this space

We are also interested in:

- **Case studies** that highlight where the use of big data has clear ethical considerations

How to submit evidence

The closing date for evidence is 5pm on **Tuesday 15th January 2019.**

Evidence should be submitted by email to Omar.Tellage@PolicyConnect.org.uk or in hard copy to:

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For more information, please contact the project managers on the details below:

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