Technology and Data Ethics Inquiry

Terms of Reference for Inquiry

Introduction

As the usage of digital technologies and data expands across all sectors of public and private life, we believe current discussions around **public trust** in the privacy and security of private information and identity is a critical "sticking point" holding back progress in this area. It is the level of privacy that our data is given which dictates how trusted an organisation is by the public, therefore these areas are inextricably linked and will be examined as such.

Primary aim

We want to bring parliamentarians and the tech sector together to provide leadership in this area. To harness the technologies of the future, and remain at the forefront of this global race, the UK – through both public and private enterprise - must act to minimise ethical concerns today, rather than undertake remedial work later.

We will concentrate on the area 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.

Policy Impact

The Inquiry will inform the remit and scope of the new Centre for Data Ethics & Innovation to support its work as a source of new governance frameworks and best practice advice and resource for public and private issues around big data and artificial intelligence.

It is unlikely that this inquiry will recommend new primary legislation, but sectoral self-regulation and the foundation of a regulator with enforcement powers on a statutory footing are options under consideration.

Focus of Research

With the Data and Technology Ethics Inquiry we will be looking mainly at the challenges around **trust** in the use of data and technology, both business and consumer trust, and the challenges that may face the sector in the future around the ethical uses of technology.

We all know that uses of data and technology have already resulted in ethical breaches and concerns around privacy and fraud. However, whilst policymakers understand this, there has been little concrete discussion of what a policy or legal framework to deal with these challenges would look like.

It is very important that these ethical considerations are dealt with early in the implementation of these transformational technologies to prevent a loss of public confidence and a withdrawal of the public "license to operate", and to ensure that businesses are secure in the knowledge that there will be legislative and regulatory consistency.

Issues of how trust can be established in digital and non-digital realms have already been outlined by others and we see no need to go over that ground again. However, what hasn't been explored, and we propose the Data and Technology Ethics Inquiry examine, is what happens after trust or ethical frameworks have been breached? Where can consumers go for redress? And who sets the standards of that safety net?

Compliance with ethical frameworks and standards that consumers expect is often framed as a restriction on innovation, but we will look at how ethical standards can be an enabling perspective. This is why the conversation must involve all APPGDA stakeholders from industry and sector companies, parliamentarians and policymakers, academics and campaign organisations. We will explore these concepts in the round and build consensus within this group.

Another area of trust that we will seek to explore is around the trade-offs that must be made between commercial companies and the consumer – this will be both an exercise in identifying these trade-offs and discussing "what happens if…" or "who is liable if…." in these trade-offs.

Whilst some have focussed on the technological challenges in the far future, with an engaged group of parliamentarians and industry experts we must restrict ourselves to the areas where we can have influence today. We propose the inquiry tackles the ethical barriers we face over the next 5-10 years, where we can investigate real-world issues and develop recommendations with real effect.

Areas of interest

The Inquiry will concentrate on areas of society that both exemplify the huge benefits available to those who fully utilise data and technology, but also demonstrate why this presents unique ethical concerns around privacy, surveillance, and potential for fraud and exploitation. Some examples of these areas are:

- **Healthcare**: New medical treatments and medicines may results 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

Current Timeline

The structure of the inquiry is set out below:

Date	Subject	Responsibility
July 2018	**Horizon Scanning** Identification of current policy landscape Discussions with key stakeholders and sponsors	Policy Connect APGDA
Tuesday 13th November 2018	**Steering Group Scoping Meeting** Approval of timeline and subject areas Review of submitted evidence Discussion of future panel sessions	Policy Connect APGDA Steering Group
November 2018	**Call for Evidence** Open invitation to stakeholders and industry to submit case studies and recommendations	Policy Connect APGDA External Stakeholders Media
Tuesday 27th November 2018	**Education Roundtable**	Policy Connect Steering Group
Tuesday 4th December 2018	**Autonomous Vehicles Roundtable**	Policy Connect Steering Group
Tuesday 8th January 2019	**Health Roundtable**	Policy Connect Steering Group
Tuesday 15th January 2019	**Policing Roundtable**	Policy Connect Steering Group
Tuesday 22nd January 2019	**Steering Group Scoping Meeting** Review of currently roundtables and collated evidence Identification of policy recommendations	Policy Connect APGDA Steering Group
February 2019	**Close of call for Evidence** Evidence collated and identified by theme Common areas incorporated into final draft Bibliography prepared	Policy Connect APGDA External Stakeholders
February 2019	**Drafting** Identification of key discussion points Collation of key points raised at roundtables Initial draft circulated and circulated to Steering Group	Policy Connect APGDA
Early March 2019	**Steering Group Review Meeting** Final draft submitted and discussed pending final approval	Policy Connect APGDA Steering Group

	Confirmation of report launch date and event	
End March 2019	**Report submission**	Policy Connect
	Layout and design approved by Steering Group	APGDA
	Sign-off report foreword by Co-Chairs	Steering Group
	Proofing and technical review	
	Issues arising from final Brexit deal discussed	
April 2019	**Report Launch**	Policy Connect
	Parliamentary event and launch	APGDA
	Invitations circulated to key parliamentarians and policy makers	External Stakeholders
		Media
	Media grid and interviews with leading figures	
	Ministerial/Select Committee engagement	
	Copies circulated to external stakeholders	
Spring – Summer 2019	**Continuing Review and Evidence Gathering**	Policy Connect
	Noting follow-up and policy impact	APGDA
	Identification of changes within political landscape	Steering Group
		External Stakeholders
		Media

Structure

The Steering Group will develop the structure of the report and provide a single point of contact for the Inquiry.

Inquiry Steering Group

Membership of the Inquiry Steering Group is as follows:

- Lee Rowley MP (Co-Chair)
- Darren Jones MP (Co-Chair)
- Professor Luciano Floridi: Oxford Internet Institute (Academic Advisor)
- Phil Richards: Chief Innovation Officer, Jisc
- Fiona Smith: Open Data Institute
- Alan Tua: Associate Director, Artificial Intelligence, Deloitte
- Narayanan Vaidyanathan , Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
- Professor Marina Jirotka, University of Oxford

The Steering Group will play the lead role in setting the parameters of the inquiry.

It will also set the agenda and attendee list for the roundtable discussions and areas of common concern across the sectors.

Roundtables

It is proposed that four roundtables are held over the duration of autumn/winter 2018/19. Each roundtable will discuss the areas of interest highlighted below. Relevant industry figures and sector leaders will be approached to participate in these discussions, to be held in Parliament and led by the Inquiry Co-Chairs. Each roundtable will be held in the format of a short introduction to the topic by an attendee followed by a broad discussion from a group of interested stakeholders and concluding with a review by the Steering Group.

Each roundtable will consider the ethical challenges arising from the increased use of big and open data within the areas of healthcare, autonomous vehicles, education, and policing. It is expected that common concerns will emerge across all four roundtables, but that specific issues will also arise that require highlighting to policy makers. All major issues raised will feed into the final report which will identify the matters arising from each roundtable by subject, as well as any recommendations for policy makers to address in subsequent years.

Calls for Evidence

An open call for evidence will be hosted by Policy Connect and circulated to all APGDA members and relevant stakeholders. Evidence will be requested that falls into the general remit of the inquiry, as well as the four specific areas being considered by the Inquiry. Submission will not guarantee their incorporation into the final report, but relevant case studies or viewpoints will be incorporated according to the Steering Group's views.

Points of Contact

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