



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Technology & Digital' Series

Sana Khareghani, Head of the UK

Government's Office for Artificial Intelligence

3 March, 2021

Expert Insight

We were joined by Sana Khareghani, Head of the UK Government's Office for Artificial Intelligence, to discuss the recent AI Roadmap report carried out by the AI Council. Sana started with an overview of the importance of AI. A few key points included:



- AI could contribute \$15.7tn to the global economy by 2030. The UK is one of the global leaders in the development of world class AI and is now number 3 in the global AI race, behind only the USA and China
- In 2018, the UK Government and AI community agreed the near £1bn AI Sector Deal to boost the UK's global position as a leader in developing AI technologies
- The AI Council was established in 2019 to provide dialogue between industry, academia, and government. The expert independent committee is made up of 21 of the UK's leading thinkers in AI from industry, academia, and civil society with a diverse range of experience and skills
- There are currently 5 priority areas for the Office for Artificial Intelligence; leadership and society, skills and talent, access to data, supporting adoption, and international engagement

Presentation Spotlight

Released in January 2021, the [AI Roadmap](#) sets out a collective vision to Government on the future direction of AI policy in the UK. Sana added that there are 2 fundamental messages in the Roadmap:

- Government must “double down” on recent investments made in AI
- We must look to the horizon and remain adaptable to disruption, responding to the rapid pace and evolution of science and technology and its application

The Government is now considering the recommendations made from the Roadmap on how best to move the UK towards the next chapter of its AI journey.

To sign-up to the Office for AI and AI Council newsletter, [click here](#).



Our members' questions

A number of interesting questions were raised by our members. Some of the topics included:

- The social acceptance of AI technologies
- Work on the underlying data infrastructure across Government
- What can be done to improve the digital foundations that AI depends on
- How the Roadmap will support understanding and collaboration across the sectors

WIG members can listen to Sana's presentation [here](#)

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