

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring

Friday 3rd

November



Political Update

The headlines this week have been dominated by the ongoing COVID inquiry, which expletive-filled sensationalist headlines aside, has revealed much about the toxic culture in the workforce of Cabinet. More importantly, the inquiry has shed light on just how unprepared the Cabinet was for a pandemic, with non-existent structure, a seemingly changing leadership plan day by day and the far reaching repercussions stemming from a lack of female representation.

Inquiries into his predecessor aside, the Prime Minister was otherwise occupied for most of the week with the long-awaited AI Safety Summit taking place at Bletchley Park. The summit was attended by representatives from leading AI nations, businesses, civil society and AI experts. A few Government officials made speeches and put forth the UK's vision for AI that will ensure safety and security to be a part of the opportunities AI offers. At the end of the summit, Prime Minister Sunak held a roundtable discussion with Elon Musk, a first of its kind event.

The Summit was met with criticism from trade unions and rights campaigners that accused the Government of prioritising the voice of 'Big Tech' and marginalising the communities and workers the most affected by AI. Also raised around the fringes of the summit has been the environmental impact of AI and the current gender prejudices that some open source AI tools may have.

On the horizon, next Tuesday Parliament will re-open for the first (and last) King's Speech of this Parliament. Click the button below to read Cavendish's Pre-Briefing on what we can expect to hear from this Government's last major policy offering before the General Election.

[Click here to download Cavendish's Pre-Briefing on the King's Speech.](#)

News

[Department for Business and Trade launch call for input on trade with Turkey](#)

The Department for Business and Trade has opened a consultation on which aspects of current trading arrangements with Turkey should be improved or amended and what challenges those who attempt to trade with Turkey face.

The consultation will be open until 11.45pm on 5th January 2024.

[UK Visas and Immigration office publish eVisa guidance](#)

The UK Visas and Immigration Office has published guidance on its eVisas scheme. UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) are developing a digital immigration system. This means physical documents are being replaced with an online record of immigration status. This is known as an eVisa.

The documents being replaced are:

- biometric residence permits (BRP)
- biometric residence cards (BRC)
- passport endorsements, such as indefinite leave to enter wet ink stamps
- vignette stickers in passports, such as entry clearance or visa vignettes

[Countries agree to safe and responsible development of frontier AI in landmark Bletchley Declaration](#)

The Bletchley Declaration on AI safety sees 28 countries from across the globe including Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, as well as the EU, agreeing to the urgent need to understand and collectively manage potential risks through a new joint global effort to ensure AI is developed and deployed in a safe, responsible way for the benefit of the global community.

Britain to be made AI match-fit with £118 million skills package

The Government announced a £118 million boost to skills funding to ensure that the UK's AI skills base will be future-proofed. This funding will lead to centres for postgrad research, scholarships, a new visa scheme and a push for students to take on AI and data courses and will ensure the UK has the skilled workforce to harness the potential of AI. Ranging from new technology to screen for lung cancer, to tools that will cut workloads for teachers, the intention is for AI to transform efficiency and productivity right across society.

Parliament

Parliament is currently prorogued in preparation for the King's Speech on the Tuesday 7th November.

House of Commons

Chair of the Culture, Media & Sport Committee calls on Government to protect creative industries

Ahead of the AI Safety Summit that took place at Bletchley Park this week, Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, Dame Caroline Dinenage MP, called on the Government to ensure the UK's creative industries are properly protected from the risks posed by artificial intelligence, whilst still supporting the sector to make the most of these new technologies.

Dame Dinenage MP stated:

"This week's summit provides a golden opportunity for the Government to signal that it is firmly on the side of creatives across the UK and globally who understandably feel threatened by the emergence of AI and its potential to trample over their rights.

"After past missteps, the Government must seize the chance to show that it is serious about developing a copyright and regulatory regime with proper protections from AI in order to regain the trust of the arts and cultural sector.

"It must also show that it is properly supporting the sector to make the most of new technology to allow the UK to fulfil its potential as a creative industry superpower on the world stage."

For any queries regarding this round-up
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