

The Alan Turing Institute

Mr Stephen Metcalfe, MP
Chair, Science and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London
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21ST October 2016

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Dear Mr Metcalfe,

HOUSE OF COMMONS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT ON ROBOTICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Firstly, may I congratulate you on your election as chair of the Science and Technology Committee and wish you every success in leading the Committee in its essential work.

Further to that, I am writing to you on behalf of The Alan Turing Institute in response to the Committee's Report on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence published last week.

The Institute welcomes the Report and recognises that it addresses some very important issues. Advances in AI, and the machine learning technologies which underpin it, are essential components of the success of the emerging field of data science. This area of research is moving very quickly and, in such a fast-changing environment, we are keenly aware of the need for the social, ethical and legal implications to be considered carefully alongside the many potential benefits of these technologies.

As the UK's new data science research institute, The Alan Turing Institute brings together researchers across disciplines - among them experts in machine learning and AI, and social data scientists including experts in data ethics - to generate

world-class data science research, drive impact, train the next generation of data scientists, and pioneer this new discipline. The Institute is also working increasingly with organisations from the public, private and charitable sectors to ensure an open and collaborative approach to our new discipline, and to become the national hub for taking data science forward in the UK.

As such the Institute is well placed to play a leading role, with other key organisations in the field, in ensuring the framework for future development of AI technologies takes account of public views while enabling innovation to flourish, and we welcome the opportunity to work with UK government as it develops its thinking. In particular, your Report recommends that a standing Commission on Artificial Intelligence be established, based at the Alan Turing Institute, to examine the social, ethical and legal implications of recent and potential developments in AI, focusing on establishing principles to govern the development and application of AI techniques, as well as advising the Government of any regulation required on limits to its progression. Should this recommendation be taken forward, we would very much welcome the opportunity to lead the creation of the Commission.

Yours



Sir Alan Wilson FBA,FRS
Chief Executive