Dear My Speaker,
How excellent it is that you have initiated this committee. I came across Emma McQueenie's....apologies if that is the wrong spelling but I am working from memory......by chance when googling for new technology. So many congratulations to you all and good luck with using current technology to streamline centuries of government practice.
I am concerned though. The slow moving wheels of legislation need politicians and lawyers, multitudes of them. Speed it all up and will you not create a new group of unemployed from these professions, hanging around on street corners, harassing young people and falling into bad habits???!!!!
May I offer a suggestion. Governments are governed by events; always playing catch-up. How about opening the envelopes on the raft of innovation to deliver.....I am trying to use bureaucrat speech......something shockingly ahead of the game. Set up a sub-committee from this committee to look at how quickly quantum computer technology can be introduced to really speed up the processes. Employ more mathematicians to write ever refined algorithms and beat even Latvia in our forward thinking use of IT.
There is now much evidence that algorithms are much better than 'experts' at predicting future trends and events so turn over all government planning, the legal processes etc, to them and quantum technology. Alas, the above mentioned employment problem would become exacerbated but most of those employed have already all the skills necessary to remain 'looking busy while doing little' and with the improved economy their salaries and pensions can remain intact and natural wastage will deal with the numbers in due course.
One of the algorithms to be worked on could be the continuing decline of democracy into dictatorship. Is the decline inevitable and what are the chances of getting a benign dictatorship at some point in the future? There was an American video made years ago plotting the rise and fall of societies using the Roman and Greek models. America was said to be following the Roman model while Europe was following the Greek. It was called 'Empty Hearts and Empty Cities'. A copy doesn't seem to be around these days but its research needs to be updated.
The birth of the WWW and its democratic ideals demonstrates how the capitalist context of our age and the professed need to protect citizens from 'dark forces' breeds central control. Is this slide into dictatorship inevitable? How long before every citizen is enclosed in their own bubble or on-line persona controlled by the dual forces of multi-nationals' advertising and by central governments?
Could algorithms predict events, to transcend self-interests, and give us a way to maintain the hopes of liberal thinkers who set up the WWW?
We need some of your excellent committee to explore this.
A final thought. Increasingly we live in a world of cities and cities create a paradox: the more people there are, the greater is the loneliness of the majority. The explosion in "social (it's) me-dear" communications is a natural outburst of energy from those needing to establish a place for themselves. An identity. In village communities the village is the identity for its members. In cities, groups swarm and mingle and there appears the permanent human danger of faith-groups or other single-interest groups, ostensibly giving identity to the lonely, coming into conflict with each other.

Somehow all that energy, that of capitalists, bureaucrats and the various city swarms needs to be directed away from the short-termism of inward gratification and channelled for the common good. Come on you quantum scientists, lead us to the promised land; government by machines that have no need to be neither altruistic nor self-concerned.

From a non-bingo-playing oldie