



HOUSE OF LORDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Call for evidence

The Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence was appointed by the House of Lords on 29 June 2017. It has been appointed to consider the economic, ethical and social implications of advances in artificial intelligence. It has to report by 31 March 2018.

This is a public call for written evidence to be submitted to the Committee. The deadline is 6 September 2017.

We are looking to hear from as many people and organisations as possible—if you think someone you know would have views to contribute, please do pass this on to them.

When preparing your response, please bear in mind that short, concise submissions are preferred and responses must not be any longer than six sides of A4. We do not expect you to address every question below. How to submit evidence is set out later in this document but if you require any questions or adjustments to enable you to respond, please contact the staff of the Committee on the details provided.

We are looking for pragmatic solutions to the issues presented by artificial intelligence, so please provide practical examples where possible. Finally, we would be interested to know how you have defined artificial intelligence in your response.

Questions

The pace of technological change

1. What is the current state of artificial intelligence and what factors have contributed to this? How is it likely to develop over the next 5, 10 and 20 years? What factors, technical or societal, will accelerate or hinder this development?
2. Is the current level of excitement which surrounds artificial intelligence warranted?

Impact on society

3. How can the general public best be prepared for more widespread use of artificial intelligence?

In this question, you may wish to address issues such as the impact on everyday life, jobs, education and retraining needs, which skills will be most in demand, and the potential need for more significant social policy changes. You may also wish to address issues such as the impact on democracy, cyber security, privacy, and data ownership.

4. Who in society is gaining the most from the development and use of artificial intelligence and data? Who is gaining the least? How can potential disparities be mitigated?

Public perception

5. Should efforts be made to improve the public's understanding of, and engagement with, artificial intelligence? If so, how?

Industry

6. What are the key sectors that stand to benefit from the development and use of artificial intelligence? Which sectors do not?

In this question, you may also wish to address why some sectors stand to benefit over others, and what barriers there are for any sector looking to use artificial intelligence.

7. How can the data-based monopolies of some large corporations, and the 'winner-takes-all' economies associated with them, be addressed? How can data be managed and safeguarded to ensure it contributes to the public good and a well-functioning economy?

Ethics

8. What are the ethical implications of the development and use of artificial intelligence? How can any negative implications be resolved?

In this question, you may wish to address issues such as privacy, consent, safety, diversity and the impact on democracy.

9. In what situations is a relative lack of transparency in artificial intelligence systems (so-called 'black boxing') acceptable? When should it not be permissible?

The role of the Government

10. What role should the Government take in the development and use of artificial intelligence in the United Kingdom? Should artificial intelligence be regulated? If so, how?

Learning from others

11. What lessons can be learnt from other countries or international organisations (e.g. the European Union, the World Economic Forum) in their policy approach to artificial intelligence?

How to submit evidence

Written evidence should be submitted online using the written submission form available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/ai-written-submission-form>. If you do not have access to a computer you may submit a paper copy to:

Clerk to the Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence
Committee Office,
House of Lords,
London SW1A 0PW

The deadline for written evidence is **6 September 2017**.

Short, concise submissions, of no more than six pages, are strongly preferred. A longer submission should include a one-page summary. Paragraphs should be numbered. Submissions should be dated, with a note of the author's name, and of whether the author is acting on an individual or corporate basis. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email. You do not need to answer every question in our call for evidence.

Submissions become the property of the Committee which will decide whether to accept them as evidence. Evidence may be published by the Committee at any stage. It will normally appear on the Committee's website and will be deposited in the Parliamentary Archives. Once you have received acknowledgement that your submission has been accepted as evidence, you may publicise or publish it yourself, but in doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee. If you publish your evidence separately, you should be aware that you will be legally responsible for its content.

Personal contact details supplied to the Committee will be removed from submissions before publication but will be retained by the Committee staff for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, such as seeking additional information.

You should be careful not to comment on individual cases currently before a court of law, or matters in respect of which court proceedings are imminent. If you anticipate such issues arising, you should discuss with the Clerk of the Committee how this might affect your submission.

Certain individuals and organisations may be invited to appear in person before the Committee to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast in audio and online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the Clerk, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct. You can follow the progress of the inquiry at <http://www.parliament.uk/ai-committee> or on Twitter [@LordsAICom](https://twitter.com/LordsAICom).

19 July 2017