



**The AI Of The Possible:**

**Developing Scotland's  
Artificial Intelligence (AI)  
Strategy**

**Consultation Paper**

February 2020



## Overview

The Scottish Government is committed to developing an Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy for Scotland, as set out in *Protecting Scotland's Future: the Government's Programme for Scotland 2019-2020*, published in September 2019. The strategy will help ensure that Scotland maximises the potential economic and social benefits of AI, and send a strong signal to the world about our ambition.

The Scottish Government has tasked The Data Lab with convening the strategy development process, overseen by a steering committee chaired by Kate Forbes MSP, Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy. The committee was established by the Scottish Government and The Data Lab to ensure that there is balanced and diverse representation of all relevant bodies and sectors and from across Scotland.

## Why Are We Consulting?

In January 2020 the steering committee published the strategy scoping document, which sets out a draft vision for AI in Scotland and a proposed approach to fostering the adoption of AI in Scotland. The scoping document can be found at <https://www.scotlandaistrategy.com/s/The-AI-Of-The-Possible-Developing-Scotlands-Artificial-Intelligence-AI-Strategy-Scoping-Document-Jan.pdf>.

The steering committee are keen to discuss and address the most important questions necessary to developing an AI strategy that is people-centred and reflects, in its vision and approach to realising the potential of AI in Scotland, peoples' thoughts and priorities on how this can be achieved in a way that ensures no one is left behind.

They would welcome your response to our consultation questions, on the proposed definition of AI for the purposes of the strategy, the draft vision for AI and the proposed approach to fostering the adoption of AI in Scotland outlined in the scoping document. You are also invited to share your thoughts on what else you feel it is important for Scotland's AI Strategy to address. The questions, and details of how you can respond, are available below.

In addition to this consultation there will be an engagement programme with communities of interest and the public in order to increase general awareness, interest and discussion on the opportunities and challenges related to AI in Scotland. To find out more about the programme, including how to apply to get involved, please see [www.scotlandaistrategy.com](http://www.scotlandaistrategy.com).

## What Happens Next?

Information gathered from the consultation will be used to refine the vision for and proposed approach to fostering the adoption of AI in Scotland, and inform the next phases of work in the strategy development process.



## Responding to this Consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by 27 March 2020.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space. You can access and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/data-innovation/artificial-intelligence-ai-strategy>.

You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that responses are submitted before the closing date of 27 March 2020.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form and responses to:

Developing Scotland's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy Consultation  
Data, Statistics and Digital Identity Division  
Scottish Government  
Area 1F South, Victoria Quay  
Leith  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

Or to: [John.Fotheringham@gov.scot](mailto:John.Fotheringham@gov.scot)

## Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

Responses to this consultation will be shared with The Data Lab in order to help inform the next phases of work to develop the strategy. To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/> and the Privacy Notice on page 8 below.



## Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

## Comments and Complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at [John.Fotheringham@gov.scot](mailto:John.Fotheringham@gov.scot).

## Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work. You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.gov.scot>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.



## RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

**Please Note** this form **must** be completed and returned with your response. To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/> and the Privacy Notice on page 8 below.

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual       Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
- Publish response only (without name)
- Do not publish response

**Information for organisations:**

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response with The Data Lab and other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes       No



## Consultation Questions

All of these questions relate to the scoping document 'The AI Of The Possible: Developing Scotland's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy' detailed above.

**Question 1: What do you think of the proposed definition of AI for the purposes of the strategy?**

**Question 2: Do you agree that the strategy should be people-centred and aligned with Scotland's National Performance Framework?**

**Question 3: How do you think AI could benefit Scotland's people, and how do we ensure that the benefits are shared and no-one is left behind?**

**Question 4: What do you think of the proposed overarching vision of the strategy, and the two strategic goals that are proposed to underpin this?**



**Question 5: Do you agree with the representation of Scotland's AI ecosystem outlined in the scoping document? Is it missing anything?**

**Question 6: Do you have any comments on the strategic themes that will be explored in detail?**

**Question 7: How can confidence in AI as a trusted, responsible and ethical tool be built?**

**Question 8: Please comment on any other aspect of AI that you feel it is important for Scotland's AI Strategy to address.**



## The AI Of The Possible: Developing Scotland's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy

### Privacy Notice

#### Why your information is being requested

The Scottish Government has tasked The Data Lab with convening the process to develop Scotland's AI Strategy. To help inform further work to develop the strategy we would like to hear your views on the proposals set out in the strategy scoping document.

Our lawful basis for processing your personal information is Article 6(1)(e) of the General Data Protection Regulation<sup>1</sup>. We collect and process this data for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest.

#### How will your data be stored?

The Scottish Government and The Data Lab are Joint Data Controllers and will store all the data collected from this consultation confidentially on secure servers. The small amount of personal information collected will be covered by data protection legislation. The Joint Data Controllers will store the data for as long as the information is required for statistical analysis. Access to the data is limited to Scottish Government and The Data Lab staff who require to use it for the purposes described below.

#### How will the information be used?

The information provided in responses to the consultation will be used to refine the vision for and proposed approach to fostering the adoption of AI in Scotland, and inform the next phases of work in the strategy development process.

The Scottish Government and The Data Lab as Joint Data Controllers will have access to your responses and respondent information. Responses and personal contact information will not be published. Names of respondents will only be listed in review publications with respondents' consent.

<sup>1</sup> <https://gdpr-info.eu/art-6-gdpr/>





## Complaints

If you have any complaints about the way your data has been handled during this consultation, these can be made to the Scottish Government Data Protection Officer via email at [dataprotectionofficer@gov.scot](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@gov.scot).

If you feel we have been unable, or unwilling, to resolve your information rights concern, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO are the supervisory authority responsible for data protection in the UK.

For further information, including independent data protection advice and information in relation to your rights, you can contact the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Thank you for taking the time to read these notes. Please get in touch if you have any further questions.