



Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Conservative Party Chairman

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Chairman of The Conservative Party
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Dear Dr. Hayward and the CPF team,

As always, I am delighted to have received another well informed and extensive CPF report, this time covering the subject of 'The Future of Deregulation and Artificial Intelligence'. It is great to see this new style of CPF report, focusing on the long-term advancements of our society, as opposed to the short-term politics. Without a clear long-term plan, we risk responding in a reactive manner. With planning for the future, we can ensure that our nation takes a proactive leap, leading the way for innovation and development.

I found this report interesting, covering two unique topics, and where they intersect. To begin, the concept of deregulation is one rising in popularity in recent times, due to the increase in new technologies and our need to protect their use. With new technologies, comes risk and reward. The risk being that it will be used by malign actors, whose intentions are coercion or fraud. The reward, however, is leading advancements for business and investment, and well as new creative technologies and applications for services such as Artificial Intelligence.

As you rightly point out, it seems that we cannot have one without the other. But how do we ensure that the protection of our citizens does not hold them back from progression. This report proposes deregulation as a possible solution, and I was fascinated by many of the proposals. I was particularly interested in the links between greater education at an early age, and if that would perhaps reduce the need for protective regulation. If our citizens are educated about the risks and rewards, then the need to mitigate reduces. But I am also keenly aware of how this would affect the area of responsibility. This report highlights how there is a difference in opinion regarding where the 'buck stops' in terms of who is accountable. Is it the responsibility of the companies using advanced technologies to protect its consumers, or it is that of the user itself to hold personal responsibility? This is why the Prime Minister has appointed Viscount Camrose as the Minister for AI and Intellectual Property. It is the Ministers responsibility to work with the public and private sectors to ensure the smooth and safe introduction of new technologies, and ensure we are the forefront of harnessing the opportunities it provides.

I agree with one of the suggestions within this report, that being that one of the solutions to fairness and equity in the development and deployment of AI technologies lies within the need to Level Up. Having 'more computers in local authority libraries' and 'distributing technologies' to those who do not have access is key to ensuring that Britons across the country are given equal opportunities to embrace this new and vast world of digital technology.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to learn more about your priorities and ideas as members. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for these new technologies.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP
Chairman of the Conservative Party