

Press release: Industry-led Retail Sector Council launched to act as champion for future growth

- The new industry-led Council will seek to encourage growth and positive change in the sector as it adapts to rapidly changing consumer habits.

The first industry-led Retail Sector Council was officially launched today (7 March 2018) by Retail Minister Andrew Griffiths and Richard Pennycook, Chairman of Fenwick, The Hut Group and Howden Joinery Group.

The Council will meet regularly with industry to discuss the challenges the sector faces. They will review how best retailers could adapt to changing consumer behaviour, the business environment and opportunities such as the development of new technologies to improve customer service, the chances to grow skills through a sector push on high-value training and ways to boost sector productivity and its economic health.

Senior management from Boots, Amazon and other renowned retailers will sit on the Council as well as the British Retail Consortium. Together, with government, they will provide expert advice to the sector and contribute to its future direction.

Retail Minister Andrew Griffiths said:

The UK's retail sector is undergoing rapid structural changes with consumers increasingly favouring online shopping and rising operating costs for retailers.

Our new collaborative Retail Sector Council will bring government and industry together to look at how best to ensure the industry adapts to meet the changing demands of consumers.

Richard Pennycook, co-chair of the Retail Sector Council:

I am delighted to be co-chairing the first Retail Sector Council, which comes at a moment of unprecedented change for our sector. Retail is one of the largest private sector employers in the country, and the Council will provide strategic oversight of the challenges we are facing by seeking positive change and increased productivity.

"We will be working together with industry and government to deliver our vision for the future of retail.

The UK's retail sector is a driving force in the economy and essential to our high streets, local and regional communities. The formation of the council follows other government action to create a Britain fit for the future including the government's response to the independent Taylor Review, which ensures employment law and practices keep pace with the modern ways of working, and its ambitious Industrial Strategy which sets out a long term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of businesses and people throughout the UK.

In 2016, the retail sector added a gross value of £94.6 billion to the UK economy; the new Council will aim to address key sector issues including skills and increasing productivity.

Notes to editors

Retail Sector Council members:

- Andrew Griffiths, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility, Co-Chair, Retail Council
- Richard Pennycook, Co-Chair, Retail Council, Chairman of Fenwick, The Hut Group and Howden Joinery Group and previously CEO of the Co-operative Group. Richard is also Chair of the British Retail Consortium and lead non-executive board member of the Department for Education
- Doug Gurr, UK Country Manager, Amazon
- Sir Charlie Mayfield, Chairman, John Lewis Partnership
- Elizabeth Fagan, Senior Vice President, Managing Director Boots UK & ROI
- Nick Beighton, CEO, ASOS
- Ursula Lidbetter, CEO, Lincolnshire Cooperative
- John Hannett, General Secretary, Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers
- Diane Savory, Chair, GFirst LEP
- Victoria Robertshaw, CEO, Keelham Farm Shop
- Helen Dickinson, CEO, British Retail Consortium
- James Lowman, CEO, Association of Convenience Stores

Press release: New charity investigation: The Great Generation

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a new statutory inquiry into The Great Generation (1120349). The inquiry was opened on 3 January 2018.

The charity operates in Brazil, India, Jordan, Sri Lanka and Uganda and works with individuals, schools and businesses to help achieve the millennium development goals, specifically poverty alleviation.

On 17 February 2017 the charity was included in a class inquiry which the Commission opened to examine charities that had repeatedly defaulted on their accounting obligations.

The charity submitted the outstanding documents to the Commission in April 2017 and, as a result, ceased to be a part of the class inquiry. However, despite receiving regulatory advice and being reminded to meet their legal duties, the trustees again failed to file the statutory accounting information on time for the financial year ending 31 December 2016.

As a result of the further failure of the trustees to fulfil their legal reporting obligations the Commission has now opened a new inquiry.

In addition to obtaining the overdue accounting information the inquiry will seek to ensure that the trustees comply with their legal duties to file future account submissions within the statutory deadlines and examine broader aspects of the charity's administration and management to ensure it is being properly managed by the trustees.

The Commission is reminding charity trustees that if their charity's gross income exceeds £25,000, they have a legal obligation to submit a copy of their annual report and accounts to the Commission within 10 months of the charity's financial year end. Failure to do this is a criminal offence under section 173(1) of the Charities Act 2011.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries](#) by the Commission are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's details can be viewed on the Commission's [online charity search tool](#).

Ends

Notes to editors

1. The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see the [about us](#) page on GOV.UK.
 2. Search for charities on our [check charity tool](#).
 3. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
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News story: New chair for the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) announced

The appointment was made following open competition and Dr Rushton will take up her post on 1 April 2018.

Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton said:

I am delighted that Dr Rushton has chosen to accept the position of IIAC chair. I am sure her wealth of experience and knowledge will prove an asset to IIAC and will complement the legacy Professor Keith Palmer has left behind

Professor Keith Palmer, retiring chair of IIAC said:

I welcome this appointment and congratulate Lesley upon it. Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit fulfils an important function in supporting workers who have been injured by their work or acquired occupational diseases. The council in turn has a vital role in ensuring that ministers receive high quality impartial scientific advice on entitlements, and Lesley is well qualified to lead in this endeavour.

Dr Lesley Rushton was quoted as saying:

I am very pleased to be appointed as chair of the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council and look forward to developments of the work of the council

The [Industrial Injuries Advisory Council](#) is a non-departmental scientific advisory body with a statutory remit to provide independent advice on the Industrial Injuries Scheme to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland.

The [Commissioner for Public Appointments](#) regulates all appointments made by the Secretary of State to IIAC. All such appointments are made in accordance with the [Governance Code for Public Appointments](#) published by the government.

The appointment is for a period of 5 years.

Press release: Culture is Digital report will unleash the creative potential of technology for cultural organisations

DCMS Secretary of State Matt Hancock announced the move as part of the [Culture is Digital report](#), which sets out an ambitious framework for how culture and technology can work together to increase participation and boost the capability of cultural organisations.

It is the first time that the Government has looked at how the two sectors can work together to unleash the creative potential of technology and help bring every cultural organisation – both big and small – into the digital age.

The report makes a number of commitments, including:

- Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund will invest more than £2 million to build the digital capacity of their sectors
- The National Gallery will create an Innovation Lab to examine how museums and cultural organisations can use immersive media, such as virtual and augmented reality, to enhance visitors' experiences
- The Royal Opera House will create an Audience Lab, which will work with diverse talent to create content using emerging technologies and develop cross-sector collaborations

Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, said:

Our cultural output has always been our unique calling card to the rest of the world and when combined with the latest digital developments there is no limit to our creativity.

We want the UK to be the best place in the world to trial pioneering technology, while also maintaining our world leading status as a centre of artistic and cultural excellence.

Our Culture Is Digital report sets out how culture and technology can collaborate, learn from one another and keep innovating. By embracing new technologies and attracting more diverse audiences, we will continue to cement our status as a creative powerhouse in the digital age.

The [Culture is Digital report](#) showcases innovative projects in the creative

sector, highlighting the extraordinary collaborations between our world-leading cultural and digital pioneers.

It was launched at the National Gallery showcasing some of the finest recent examples of digital culture, including cutting-edge immersive installations using the latest technology.

The #CultureisDigital project was informed by an [online open conversation](#) last year and was borne out of the Government's [Culture White Paper](#) commitment to review the digitisation of our public collections and enhance the online cultural experience.

It also builds upon the Government's [UK Digital Strategy](#) commitment to increase digital skills, digital participation and unlock the power of data.

Dr Gabriele Finaldi, National Gallery Director, said:

The National Gallery is committed to an ambitious five-year programme of digital change. This goes from evolving our approach to ticketing through the use of big data, to launching new mobile services, to embedding innovation in immersive media in the Gallery through our forthcoming Lab. We are excited by today's launch of the Culture is Digital report. The commitment it marks from DCMS, the Arts Council and cultural organisations across the country to digital transformation heralds an exciting new period for us all.

Royal Opera House Chief Executive Alex Beard said:

When culture and technology come together, great things can happen. The Royal Opera House is exploring immersive technology to open up a suite of new experiences, sharing the extraordinary qualities of ballet and opera with audiences old and new in our digital age. This report acts as a useful framework for all in our sectors to explore this territory.

Arts Council England will also create and pilot the use of a Digital Maturity Index for the cultural sector, to help organisations improve their digital capability.

ACE will also work with the Heritage Lottery Fund to form a Digital Culture Code – a set of guidelines and principles which cultural organisations will be encouraged to sign up to help increase their digital skills.

Arts Council England Chief Executive Darren Henley said:

Every day across England, artists, performers, museums, libraries and arts organisations create brilliant new content. We want to make sure they have the skills to use the best technology to enable

more people in more places to connect directly to this deep well of creativity.

Heritage Lottery Fund Chief Executive Ros Kerslake said:

We welcome this timely report from DCMS. As we have set out in our current consultation on future funding, HLF is committed to supporting digital capacity in the heritage sector, building on the considerable progress that has already been made. We look forward to working with Arts Council England and other partners in making our collective aspirations for digital culture a reality.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Showcases at the event included:

- Factory 42 – Hold the World with David Attenborough: In Hold the World, Sir David and the Natural History Museum are brought together using a combination of interactive video game technology and TV documentary. Sir David will be transformed into a hologram and will guide participants to virtually handle fossils, using his passion for the natural world to bring objects to life.
 - Science Museum/Alchemy VR: Space Descent VR, a unique and immersive virtual reality experience commissioned by Alchemy VR for the Science Museum Group in which astronaut Tim Peake guides you through a thrilling, high-speed journey to Earth in the Soyuz TMA-19M.
 - BBC/Civilisations: As part of the Culture UK initiative, BBC R&D has collaborated with BBC Arts to offer the museum sector, galleries and libraries a number of exciting opportunities to be involved in the news series 'Civilisations' on BBC 2.
 - The Welsh National Opera/REWIND: Magic Butterfly – the combined experience of The Magic Flute and Madam Butterfly in VR – was a collaboration between the WNO and immersive content studio REWIND. The interactive immersive virtual reality experience combines motion capture, animation, music and technology.
 - Smartify: A virtual art guide enabling audiences to scan and identify artwork in museums and receive rich information via text, audio and video using augmented reality.
 - You can follow #CultureIsDigital on social media and explore our [interactive 360 degree presentation](#) that allows users to learn about case studies and other key aspects of the report.
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Press release: New measures to boost cyber security in millions of internet-connected devices

BOSSES behind 'smart' devices such as televisions, toys and speakers found in millions of homes will be expected to build-in tough new security measures that last the lifetime of the product, as part of plans to keep the nation safe from the increasing cyber threat.

Estimates show every household in the UK owns at least 10 internet connected devices and this is expected to increase to 15 devices by 2020, meaning there may be more than 420 million in use across the country within three years.

Poorly secured devices threaten individuals' online security, privacy, safety, and could be exploited as part of large-scale cyber attacks. Recent high-profile breaches putting people's data and security at risk include attacks on smart watches, CCTV cameras and children's dolls.

Developed in collaboration with manufacturers, retailers and the National Cyber Security Centre, the Government's [Secure by Design review](#) review lays out plans to embed security in the design process rather than bolt them on as an afterthought.

The Government will work with industry to implement a rigorous new Code Of Practice to improve the cyber security of consumer internet-connected devices and associated services while continuing to encourage innovation in new technologies.

Speaking ahead of a launch event at consumer champion Which? headquarters, Margot James, Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries, said:

We want everyone to benefit from the huge potential of internet-connected devices and it is important they are safe and have a positive impact on people's lives. We have worked alongside industry to develop a tough new set of rules so strong security measures are built into everyday technology from the moment it is developed.

This will help ensure that we have the right rules and frameworks in place to protect individuals and that the UK continues to be a world-leading, innovation-friendly digital economy.

Dr Ian Levy, the NCSC's Technical Director, said:

The NCSC is committed to ensuring the UK has the best security it can, and stop people being expected to make impossible safety judgements with no useful information.

We are pleased to have worked with DCMS on this vital review, and hope its legacy will be a government 'kitemark' clearly explaining the security promises and effective lifespan of products.

Shoppers should be given high quality information to make choices at the counter. We manage it with fat content of food and this is the start of doing the same for the cyber security of technology products.

The [Secure by Design report](#) outlines practical steps for manufacturers, service providers and developers. This will encourage firms to make sure:

- All passwords on new devices and products are unique and not resettable to a factory default, such as 'admin';
- They have a vulnerability policy and public point of contact so security researchers and others can report issues immediately and they are quickly acted upon;
- Sensitive data which is transmitted over apps or products is encrypted;
- Software is automatically updated and there is clear guidance on updates to customers;
- It is easy for consumers to delete personal data on devices and products;
- Installation and maintenance of devices is easy.

Alongside these measures for 'Internet of Things' manufacturers, the report proposes developing a product labelling scheme so consumers are aware of a product's security features at the point of purchase. The Government will work closely with retailers and consumer organisations to provide advice and support.

Alex Neill, Which? Managing Director of Home Products and Services, said:

With connected devices becoming increasingly popular, it's vital that consumers are not exposed to the risk of cyber-attacks through products that are left vulnerable through manufacturers' poor design and production.

Companies must ensure that the safety of their customers is the absolute priority when 'smart' products are designed. If strong security standards are not already in place when these products hit the shelves, then they should not be sold.

Julian David, CEO of TechUK said:

The opportunities created by the Internet of Things are now becoming clear. It offers consumers and citizens greater empowerment and control over their lifestyles, from managing energy consumption at home to having peace of mind that a frail relative is going about their normal routine.

However, these opportunities also bring risk and it is important that the IoT market now matures in a sensible and productive way, with security embedded at the design stage. This project is the start of that maturity. Industry has been keen to engage in the review and demonstrate what is best practice. It is important that companies throughout the supply chain now adopt and build on this Code of Practice to build the trust required to drive widespread take-up of the IoT.

Mark Hughes, CEO, BT Security:

BT shares the Government's ambition to make the UK the safest place to work and do business online. We are proud to have played a key advisory role in the development of the draft Code of Practice, having shared our technical insight with the Government in our capacity as a global network operator, UK broadband provider and as a global provider of cyber security and IoT services.

From the development of the world's first Cleanfeed filter to block child abuse images, free parental controls for broadband products and devices, to warning or blocking our customers from known malware and phishing sites, BT has been at the forefront of keeping consumers and families safe online for many years. BT is actively involved in driving standards, interoperability and security across the IoT market and will continue to provide guidance to the Government and industry around best practice for securing internet connected devices.

This initiative is a key part of the Government's five-year, £1.9 billion National Cyber Security Strategy which is making the UK the most secure place in the world to live and do business online.

Notes to Editors

The Secure by Design report was developed by DCMS in conjunction with the National Cyber Security Centre and with support from other Government departments, industry and academic partners. The project has been informed by

an expert advisory group which included subject matter experts from industry, consumer organisations and academia. The report can be found at [Secure by Design report](#).

Stakeholders have an opportunity to send feedback on the report's draft proposals via securebydesign@culture.gov.uk from the 7th March until the 25th April.

The Government's Digital Strategy includes the aspiration for the UK to remain an international leader in the development and uptake of IoT. The Government's actions include the funding of research and innovation in IoT, including through three-year £30 million IoT UK Programme.

The Government's Digital Charter is a rolling programme of work to agree norms and rules for the online world and put them into practice. In some cases this will be through shifting expectations of behaviour; in some we will need to agree new standards; and in others we may need to update our laws and regulations. Our starting point will be that we will have the same rights and expect the same behaviour online as we do offline.

Consumer tips for IoT device security:

- Research the security of a product before buying
- Check your home router does not have a default password/username
- Change any default passwords and usernames found in devices
- Check all the available security settings
- Check the manufacturers' website to see if there are any updates available
- If there's a two-step identification option – use it

Further guidance on security for consumer IoT / devices can be found [ICO's website](#).

Associated services: This primarily refers to applications that manage internet-connected devices. Such applications usually run on phones and connect to cloud-based services.

Draft Code of Practice:

- All IoT device passwords must be unique and not resettable to any universal factory default value.
- Companies that provide internet-connected devices and services must have a vulnerability disclosure policy and point of contact.
- Software must be kept updated. This includes the need for updates to be timely and not impact on the functioning of the device
- Any credentials must be stored securely within services and on devices. Hard-coded credentials in device software are not acceptable
- Security-sensitive data, including any remote management and control, should be encrypted when transiting the internet, appropriate to the properties of the technology and usage. All keys should be managed securely
- Ensure software integrity: Software on IoT devices must be verified

using secure boot mechanisms. If an unauthorised change is detected, the device should alert the consumer/administrator to an issue and should not connect to wider networks than those necessary to perform the alerting function

- Ensure that personal data is protected in accordance with data protection law
- Make systems resilient to outages. Resilience must be built into IoT services where required by the usage or other relying systems, so that the IoT services remain operating and functional
- Monitor system telemetry data. If collected, all telemetry such as usage and measurement data from IoT devices and services should be monitored for security anomalies within it
- Make it easy for consumers to delete personal data on devices and products.
- Make installation and maintenance of devices easy
- Validate input data: Data input via user interfaces and transferred via application programming interfaces (APIs) or between networks in services and devices must be validated

The Government will be conducting more work in 2018 to further develop these recommendations. This will involve considering how following the Data Protection Bill, the Government can further embed guidelines in the Code of Practice within regulations.

This initiative is a key part of the Government's five-year, £1.9 billion National Cyber Security Strategy which is making the UK the most secure place in the world to live and do business online.