

# Speech: Matt Hancock speaking at the launch of the AI Sector Deal

Good afternoon everyone.

What a fantastic occasion to come together and recognise the importance of artificial intelligence.

I want to stress the importance of this Sector Deal for us in Government and its vital place at the heart of the Industrial Strategy.

And to look forward and talk about what we can all do to create the perfect environment for AI to flourish here in the UK.

After all, this technology is changing things at a greater pace than ever before.

Although, if you think about it, the current pace of change is likely to be the slowest pace of change we'll see for the rest of our lifetimes.

So if you don't like change much then I don't have good news for you..

And that's down to the nature of data technologies, and especially AI.

For while old-fashioned consumption is a one off: once you've eaten the apple, you don't have the apple ...

... and standard investment is additive: build a bridge and you've got a bridge...

... development of artificial intelligence is compound: the system stays with you, and it learns and gets better over time.

So I believe wholeheartedly that we are in the early stages of a revolution that is going to change all of our lives.

And crucially, if we use AI in the right way, we can create a more prosperous economy with better and more fulfilling jobs. We can protect our environment by using this planet's resources more efficiently. We can make governments smarter by using the power of data to improve our public services. And we can make sure we solve problems for other people so they can live better lives. That is what this is all about. McKinsey recently published an assessment of how AI could transform 19 crucial industries.

It estimated that the the potential increase in value that AI can provide to these industries is between 3 and a half and 5 trillion dollars for these 19 industries.

Today's Sector Deal is about showing our commitment to leading the world in the critical AI industry.

We already have organisations at the cutting edge – in biomedicine, law, finance, research, cybersecurity – that all can become even stronger through using AI in their operations, products and services.

We have some of the best facilities available for businesses to develop AI... world-class universities like this one – other universities are available... and a strong startup culture.

And we are already working across Government, and with businesses, to deliver on the ambitious recommendations of the AI Review.

This work is bearing fruit. In December, the UK was ranked first amongst OECD countries in our readiness to implement AI in public service delivery.

And so we feel very strongly that we are at the front of the race to develop AI.

But we are absolutely determined to stay there and I hope you can see from the cross-Government effort today that this is something that unites us across Government.

This Deal has also brought together business, academia and Government to make sure the UK stays at the forefront.

I just want to highlight a few of the things that I found most exciting.

The new doctoral training places. Increasing 8,000 more computer science teachers in school.

Making sure we get the physical infrastructure right. Like the next generation of 5G and full fibre networks – we're investing over a billion pounds in those.

And we need to invest in data too. Because data is part of our infrastructure. Just as maps help us navigate in the real world, data helps us navigate to a decision.

And for AI systems, data is the experience needed to be able to process information and interact usefully with the world around us.

We need to ensure making high quality public datasets available continues to drive policy.

From public transport apps like Citymapper that make it so easy to find your way around London, to flood warning apps that give updates in real time during a flood incident.

To a new app that we saw yesterday, from a company that uses artificial intelligence and data on weather and airline flight schedules, to predict even before the airlines know, the probability of a flight being delayed.

These are some of the many brilliant ideas that are already coming to the

fore in the UK.

And of course a word on the ethics. Because it is critical that we build ethics we believe in into AI from the start.

And we do the work now to ensure that the correct ethical frameworks are in place.

Our Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation is intended to unlock the usefulness of that data, whilst protecting its value for organisations and keeping people's data secure.

And ensuring that ethics and innovation are mutually reinforcing, not mutually exclusive.

Trust underpins a strong economy, and trust in data underpins a strong digital economy.

We will do all we can to build the conditions for AI to succeed and develop here in the UK. The ethics, the data and the infrastructure.

And our doors are always open to talk about what more we need to do to make sure this happens in the UK.

The revolution is already starting.

We need to act now, and act together, and steer this to benefit everyone in the UK.

The UK can be at the heart of the AI revolution. We have some of the best minds, the best companies, the best universities in the world.

We have a Government committed to making the UK a leading power in artificial intelligence.

And from today, we have a deal that commits government and industry, working in partnership, to the tune of a billion pounds – to make sure that the UK stays in the first rank of AI economies.

Thank you.

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## **[Press release: UK position on briefing by Russia and Syria at the OPCW](#)**

The UK has outlined its position on the briefing by the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic held at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) today on “the staged incident in Syrian Duma on 7

April, with the participation of unwitting comedians and other witnesses from the famous 'White Helmets' footage broad (sic) to The Hague straight from the site of the event."

Russia and Syria's briefing at the OPCW premises today is a stunt. The Director General has opposed Russia's decision to host this briefing today. The UK will not attend, in company with our allies.

The OPCW is not a theatre. Russia's decision to misuse it is yet another Russian attempt to undermine the OPCW's work, and in particular the work of its Fact Finding Mission investigating chemical weapons use in Syria; The Director General of the OPCW has called on Russia and Syria to work with the Fact Finding Mission, and to wait for its report. Russia and Syria have ignored his concerns.

Describing chemical weapons victims as 'comedians' is despicable. It shows the utter disregard Russia and Syria have for the suffering of the Syrian people, and indeed the global norm against chemical weapons use.

Widespread reports of intimidation of witnesses to the Douma attack is a cause for real concern. The Director General has asked states to supply information about the Douma attack to his Fact Finding Mission. Russia and Syria should do so, instead of waging a propaganda campaign of misinformation. We will not compromise with states that seek to degrade the structures and treaties that keep us safe.

Any witnesses with information related to chemical weapons attacks in Syria should be heard by the impartial OPCW Fact Finding Mission (FFM). We support the FFM and urge others to cease attempts to undermine its vital work.

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## [Speech: CHOGM 2018 – Investing in Global Britain](#)

Good afternoon, and welcome to this 'Investing in the UK' event.

It is a pleasure to have so many of you attending today.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is, first and foremost, a forum of cooperation and a chance to strengthen our partnerships with friends and allies.

This event is, then, a welcome opportunity for me to talk exclusively about the strengths of the United Kingdom!

As Secretary of State for International Trade this is something that I've had the opportunity to practice all over the world, from Sydney to Vancouver,

from Bangkok to Bogota – and everywhere in between.

Fortunately, it's a message that I'll never get tired of delivering.

For some less well-informed investors, the economy of the UK begins and ends in London.

There is no denying that our capital is one of the great global cities.

It is the world's foremost financial centre – a hive of commercial activity unrivalled anywhere in Europe with an economy roughly the size of Sweden's.

Moreover, it is a city that continues to be at the cutting edge of new industries. Take, for example, technology.

Last year, new tech companies were founded in London at the rate of one an hour.

In that same period, more tech venture capital was invested in this city than in Germany, France, Spain, and Ireland combined.

I could go on about the merits of London. But the department I lead has a remit covering the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and is tasked with spreading the prosperity and opportunity of international trade across the whole country.

Moreover, today's event is designed to showcase the vast commercial prospects that exist both inside and outside our capital.

Few people realise that almost 80% of the UK's GDP is generated outside London.

The UK remains the number one destination for inward investment in Europe, with an open, liberal economy, a flexible and dynamic labour market, business-friendly taxation and regulation and a strong, transparent rule of law.

Fundamentally, the UK is a safe and stable economy in which to invest, with a proven track record of returns for our global partners.

I'm delighted that we are joined today by a panel of 6 recent investors in the UK, hailing from across the Commonwealth, who will share their experience of doing business here.

You will hear their stories of successful investments across the country, including:

Seqirus from Australia, whose centre of excellence in Liverpool has created 100 new jobs in developing a new flu vaccine.

South Africa's Fair Tree Capital, whose hotel portfolio spans South West England and the Lake District.

And Royal Enfield Motorcycles, whose new technology centre in Leicestershire

involves significant UK-India cross collaboration on engineering and design.

Added to this, I am delighted to announce that India's Wadhawan Global Capital will invest £300 million into the UK over the next few years, supporting 1,000 jobs.

This is just one of 55 potential deals that we have identified across 17 Commonwealth member states, collectively worth over £2.7 billion, and creating some 5,800 jobs.

I very much look forward to learning what Wadhawan's plans are during the fireside chat later in this session.

Our panellists' businesses are part of an extensive pattern of investment that exists between the UK and the Commonwealth.

In the 2016/17 financial year, there were 384 new FDI projects in the UK from Commonwealth investors – 17% of the overall total.

These created almost 10,000 new jobs across the country and safeguarded a similar number.

The importance of our Commonwealth partners to the UK economy cannot be overstated.

India is the fourth-largest source of UK FDI, just behind the United States and China.

In turn, India comes just ahead of Australia and New Zealand, which together have overtaken Japan to land 127 new projects in the UK.

It is no wonder that 2016/17 was the most successful year for FDI in this country's history, given the strength of our regional diversity.

By this I don't mean the bewildering array of accents and cultures spread over this small island, but the regional expertise that exists to support certain industries.

Wales, for example, has recently seen a £3 million investment from the Melbourne-based life science firm Medical Ethics.

The company cited the UK's proven capacity to provide the expertise required to commercialise their technology, including regulatory affairs, manufacturing and clinical studies.

Tax subsidies and patent incentives were also a contributing factor, giving the UK a competitive edge when compared to other locations around the world.

Meanwhile, South West England boasts strong links with the aerospace and nuclear industries, with the presence of Rolls Royce and Airbus, as well as the new reactor development at Hinkley Point, creating a highly skilled local workforce.

The South East is home to globally renowned film studios at Pinewood and Leavesden, while Cambridge and East Anglia plays host to 'Silicon Fen', as well as Europe's most important life science and research clusters.

It also hosts Motorsport Valley – a globally leading cluster of high-performance technology, motorsport and advanced engineering companies that includes the majority of the world's Formula 1 Teams.

The area also contains Silverstone race circuit – familiar to many as the home of the British Grand Prix.

Most importantly, the UK's 2 flagship regional economic development programmes – the Midlands Engine and the Northern Powerhouse – are having a significant impact on Britain's regional prosperity, creating a wave of new commercial opportunities.

The Midlands is now home to the largest number of medical technology companies in the country, with 8 world-class research universities combining their collective excellence to drive cutting edge innovation, research and skills development.

And the Northern Powerhouse has brought together the great cities and towns of the North of England to form a global hub of advanced manufacturing and energy capability.

We have the National Graphene Centre in Manchester.

We have Sheffield's Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre; the home of Boeing's new high-tech component manufacturing facility – much praised when I visited Boeing's Headquarters in Seattle last week.

And we have the National Innovation Centre for Data, which opened in Newcastle last year.

These regions were the cradle of the Industrial Revolution. Now, once again, they are world leaders in science, industry and technology.

And let's not forget Northern Ireland, with its burgeoning machinery and engineering sector.

Or Scotland, which is leading the world in the uptake and development of renewable energy.

With all of these, I hope I have given you a flavour of the vast opportunities that are available in this county and inspired you to look to London and beyond for your investment.

My Department for International Trade is committed to ensuring that the UK continues to be a global leader in attracting foreign investment.

Earlier this month we launched our new FDI strategy, designed to focus our efforts on maximising wealth creation across the whole UK, and to transform DIT from one of the most respected investment promotion organisations in the

world, to the most sophisticated.

Our 3-part approach will make innovative use of data in measuring the economic impact of projects.

It will identify those opportunities across the UK with the greatest potential for international investors.

And it will target government support precisely where it will have the greatest positive impact on the economy.

DIT, together with our overseas business partners, intends to fully realise the potential of every part of the United Kingdom, and build a more prosperous future for Britain, the Commonwealth, and the world.

Now, I'm sure you're all as eager as I am to hear from our panellists, but first, I have the great pleasure of introducing the Lord Mayor of London.

For more than 8 centuries, the Lord Mayor and the City of London Corporation have been London's beating commercial heart.

They have been instrumental in the City's success and have forged its international reputation.

This afternoon, we have the pleasure of his views and experience on the almost limitless investment opportunities that London has to offer.

Lord Mayor – welcome.

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## **Press release: Aberdeen has a bright future post-Brexit, ministers tell industry leaders**

Businesses in Aberdeen have today been reassured by ministers that they have the full support and backing of the Government as the UK prepares to leave the EU.

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Robert Jenrick, and Brexit Minister, Robin Walker, visited the 'Granite City' to meet local businesses and leaders from the oil and gas, and fishing industries. They listened to local concerns and underlined the UK government's determination to get the best Brexit deal for people living and working in Aberdeen.

The ministers were in town to host the Oil and Gas forum with senior representatives from energy companies, such as BP and Shell, as well as supply chain companies and the Oil & Gas Authority.

Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Robert Jenrick said:

“For the first time in many years the Government is holding its oil and gas summit here in Aberdeen, to listen to the sector and the wider business community.

“We are supporting the oil and gas industry making it more competitive and innovative, and securing a strong future for it and for Aberdeen.

“We want to see Aberdeen’s economy continue to thrive and are pleased to be meeting businesses and entrepreneurs across the city and county.”

Brexit Minister, Robin Walker, said:

“Aberdeen’s vibrant, diverse industries – from oil and gas to fishing – are renowned the world over. As we leave the EU, we’re committed to enabling these great Scottish businesses to go from strength to strength.

“That’s why I was pleased to talk to Scottish industries today about our ongoing negotiations with the EU. The implementation period we agreed in March will provide the certainty they’ve rightly been asking for, as well as give us the opportunity to go out into the world and negotiate new trade deals for the first time in 40 years.

“Our future outside the EU is a bright one for Scottish business as part of a global UK.”

Discussions at the oil and gas forum focussed on the opportunities and challenges posed to the sector by Brexit, as well as how government support and the multi-billion package of generous tax cuts has provided greater stability for the industry – protecting jobs and driving innovation.

The Exchequer Secretary saw this innovation first hand on a subsequent visit to the ASET International Oil & Gas Training Academy, where engineers tasked with fixing oil rigs and emergency responders are trained for a career in the North Sea.

The ministers also attended a business event with the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce. There, they met with up to 80 local entrepreneurs to hear their priorities for Brexit and answer their questions.

Brexit Minister, Robin Walker, also met the Scottish Seafood Association to discuss our desire to build a new economic partnership with the EU that secures the freest and most frictionless trade possible in fish products between the UK and the EU, alongside the opportunities coming to the wider UK fishing community. From December 2020 we will be negotiating fishing opportunities as an independent coastal state, deciding who can access our waters and on what terms for the first time in 40 years.

## **Notes to editors:**

Since 2014, the UK government has supported the Oil and Gas industry with:

- Significant cuts to tax rates: permanently reducing Petroleum Revenue Tax from 50% to 0%, and cutting Supplementary Charge from 32% to 10%;
- The introduction of a new basin-wide Investment Allowance, reducing the effective rate of tax for companies who are investing in new developments;
- £40 million of funding for seismic surveys, to support activity in under-explored parts of the UK Continental Shelf, plus a further £5 million to support exploration projects in 2018-19;
- Jointly investing up to £250m with the Scottish Government through the Aberdeen City Region Deal, which includes support for the Oil & Gas Technology Centre; and
- Announcing a transferable tax history to support transactions of late life oil and gas fields, available for deals from 1 November 2018.

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## [News story: Civil/crime news: list of individuals excluded from contract work](#)

A list of individuals excluded from being supervisors or performing contract work is available on our 'contract terminations and exclusions' page on GOV.UK – link below.

The information includes the:

- individual's name
- region in which the individual was working prior to exclusion
- nature of work individual excluded from doing
- date exclusion was imposed
- date exclusion will be reviewed

## **Reasons for exclusion**

Among other reasons which are set out in our standard contract documents, the LAA may exclude individuals where they have been:

- a cause of, or the subject of an official investigation or report – as defined within the applicable LAA contract standard terms
- a cause of a sanction, or
- they have been charged with, or convicted of, an imprisonable offence

In addition, we would need to consider that such action is reasonably necessary to protect clients, public funds or the LAA from material harm.

## **Why is this happening now?**

By publishing a list, our intention is to raise awareness and reduce the risk of legal aid providers using any excluded individuals for work affected by the terms of their exclusion.

## **Right of appeal**

Details of excluded individuals will only be published following the conclusion of any applicable LAA appeal processes.

## **Removing individuals from the list**

The individual will be removed from the published list once the exclusion expires or is revoked and the LAA is satisfied that the individual no longer poses a risk of causing material harm to clients' interests, public funds or the LAA.

Individuals are entitled to apply annually for a review of their inclusion on the list or should their circumstances change such that the exclusion may no longer be considered necessary.

## **Providers to check 'excluded individuals' list**

To ensure that providers are not in breach of their contractual obligations, it is the responsibility of providers to check the 'excluded individuals' list before allowing individuals or third parties to carry out contract work on their behalf.

Obligations are set out in clause 10.4 of the contract standard terms – see contract link below. Appropriate action against any providers found to be employing excluded individuals will be considered by the LAA in accordance with the terms of the contract.

## **Further information**

[Contract terminations and exclusions](#) – to download ‘excluded individuals’ list

[Standard Civil Contract 2015](#) – see clauses 10.4, 24.9, 24.10 and 24.11 which are common to civil and crime contracts since 2010

[Bar Standards Board Disciplinary tribunals and findings](#)

[SRA published regulatory decisions](#) – details of suspended/struck off individuals

[SRA recent decisions](#)