Data and AI Civil Society Network Election Hub

Welcome to the [Data and AI Civil Society Network](#) Election Hub.

Data and AI might not come up on the average doorstep But whatever the next government looks like, decisions on data and AI will be at the centre of delivering economic and public service agendas.

The [Data and AI Civil Society Network](#) brings together a wide range of civil society organisations committed to data and AI related policy and practice that is democratic and inclusive, upholds the highest standards of human rights and brings benefits to communities, societies and the environment.

Below you can find links to key election resources, including relevant manifestos from civil society organisations and analysis of data and digital in party manifestos (once they're published). Please feel free to add any relevant links to work from your organisation, or anything else you think could be useful.

For candidates: read manifestos from civil society organisations and other analysis to explore priority digital issues

For citizens: find data and digital questions to ask your local candidates, analysis of digital in party manifestos and a guide to what the parties are promising

For campaigners and civil society: keep track of who is doing what on digital in this campaign and find space to collaborate.

If you're not familiar with the Data and AI Civil Society Network, would like to know more or even join, you can [find more information on the Network site](#). We hope you find these links helpful in any case.

Contents

Overall election resources

- Vote in UK elections, including Register to vote (UK Government)

- Voter ID (Electoral Commission)

- Election guidance for civil servants, a guide to what public servants can and can't do during the pre-election period (still sometimes called 'purdah') (UK Government)

- The General Election and my personal data - what should I expect? (ICO)

- Election 2024, with guidance to 'help users navigate statistical claims' and support public sector statisticians (Office for Statistics Regulation)

- Campaigning and political activity: general election lessons learned, useful advice if you're a charity (Charity Commission)

- General elections (UK Parliament)

- The general election and voting in the UK (House of Commons Library)

- General election 2024 (Institute for Government)

- Election live (Full Fact)

- Democracy Club, with lots of information on who's standing and much more besides

- Election Bulletin (Democracy Network), with lots of useful links.

Manifestos and other general election resources from the data and AI civil society network

- Progressive Vision (civil society, Labour Together and others, convened by Connected by Data) – this was a collaborative effort published in October 2023, with a vision, values, principles and policies. As well as a document that should be of use to all progressive politicians, there's a short pamphlet from a launch event at Labour conference

- [Policy manifesto](#) (Open Data Institute) – published in March 2024, this groups several policy ideas for making the data (and AI) ecosystem work for everyone by the ODI's six principles. [A launch event](#) with senior politicians included a rich discussion on how to adapt parliament and the legislative process to deal with tech regulation

- [Manifesto Proposals for Education and the Digital Environment](#) (Defend Digital Me) - proposes an Education and Digital Rights Act which would include 'a family opt-in/out of today's commercial reuses of national pupil records; students' equality monitoring kept as statistics not named data at the DfE; a National Digital Office responsible for quality, standards, and schools' and family support'. See also [their newsletter](#) looking at education-related proposals in the manifestos

- [Big Brother Watch: General Election Briefing](#) - outlines 5 key areas to focus on upholding civil liberties: 1) protect rights from facial recognition surveillance; 2) no bank spying; 3) no censorship; 4) commit to never propose mandatory ID (incl digital); 5) privacy for all (workplace surveillance, data protection standards, protect the Human Rights Act 1998). They also have a [template letter](#) to send to candidates, and an [Election Watch page](#)

- [DIGITAL RIGHTS MANIFESTO](#) (Open Rights Group) - calls on the next government to 'Protect our right to send private messages', 'Provide migrants with digital sanctuary', 'Ban the use of pre-crime AI by the police', 'Defend our right to freedom of expression online', 'Strengthen our data protection rights', 'End intrusive tracking by online advertisers'. if you're a candidate, [you can pledge support](#). ORG have also built a tool to help you [opt out of political parties using your data](#).

- [Building a future of better work: policy asks for a new government](#) (Institute for the Future of Work - see also their [election special newsletter](#)) - asks include 'Embedding Good Work as a cross-cutting policy objective', 'Devolve power and funding to Combined Authorities to empower them to develop and implement 10-year strategies', 'create a network of National Research and Innovation Laboratories across the country', 'Introduce a Responsible Innovation and AI Act to create a world-leading, principles-based framework for regulation', 'Build on the [Disruption Index](#) to galvanise the government's responsibility to establish, run and make accessible a new public data infrastructure', and 'Ensure a new Employment Act boosts rights for information, consultation and ongoing monitoring of 'good work' impacts'

- [Incoming UK Government must commit to implementing and enforcing children's safety online regulation](#) (5Rights Foundation) - asks for politicians to commit to three calls: 'Make implementing and enforcing children's established rights under international and UK law a top priority'; 'Prioritise children's safety and rights in government tech strategy'; and 'Keep promises to bereaved parents'.

- [PLATFORM WORKERS MANIFESTO: 10 priorities to fix a broken gig economy](#) (Worker Info Exchange) - includes calls to end algorithmic wage discrimination and robo-firing, restrictions on worker surveillance, greater rights including consultation, and for more algorithmic transparency and open data for workers and communities.

Manifestos, open letters and other general election resources from others

- [Fix the digital divide - for good](#) (Good Things Foundation) - the UK's leading digital inclusion charity calls on the next government to Show sustained, joined-up leadership on digital inclusion; Commit to publishing a clear plan of action serving communities across the country; and Build on the cross-party House of Lords committee's report on digital exclusion. (The Digital Poverty Alliance has also launched [a Charter for Digital Inclusion](#))

- [Our work on the 2024 general election](#) - including [Statistics in Action: A manifesto for empowering society through data](#) (Royal Statistical Society)

- [Face the general election like a pro](#) (mySociety) - highlighting some useful tools and features

- [Voluntary Sector Manifesto](#) (NCVO and ACEVO) - this calls on the government to 'invest in the voluntary sector as an equal partner of the state'. 'To bring about a new era of success and growth across the country, the power and commitment of the voluntary sector must be realised'

- [Manifesto](#) (British Academy) - this calls for the next government to strengthen humanities and social sciences to tackle the UK's biggest challenges. It mentions the need for new data infrastructure but also for SHAPE subjects (social

sciences, humanities and the arts) to be brought to questions on uses of technology

- [How the next UK government can support research](#) (Wellcome) - priorities include responsible and transparent use of patient data as part of making the UK 'the most attractive place in the world to do research', and investment in research infrastructure

- [Open Manifesto 2024](#) (OpenUK) - this focuses on open source, specifically Building Skills in Open Source Software; Enabling the UK Public Sector to do Open Source Software better; and AI Openness

- [How the next government can transform society with ethics, education and equity in technology: BCS manifesto 2024](#) (BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT) - steps to build public trust in tech include professional registration for those with significant roles in IT (including 'leaders who use technology in critical national infrastructure like health, defence and other public services'), every child and adult having access to 'a world class computing and digital literacy education' and 'closing the diversity gap in information technology' which could 'solve many of its issues around trust, bias and safety'

- [Our Creative Future: The Manifesto](#) (Creative UK) - includes protecting IP in the age of AI

- [BUSINESS MANIFESTO OUTLINES 5-POINT ACTION PLAN](#) (British Chamber of Commerce) - one of the points is 'A Government appointed AI champion for SMEs to spearhead uptake of new technology'

- [Protecting the UK's Democracy: Key Electoral Reforms Recommended by Independent Experts](#) (Spotlight on Corruption and others) - includes information sharing powers for the Electoral Commission, and greater transparency

- [PARTY LEADERS MUST MAKE ONLINE SAFETY AN ELECTION PRIORITY](#) (Molly Rose Foundation)

- [Four key policy asks](#) (Smartphone Free Childhood) - these are to force social media companies to remove the 'millions of under age accounts on their platforms', raise the minimum age from 13 to 16, 'make all schools smartphone free during school hours' and 'mandate that children under 16 are not allowed unrestricted smartphones'

- [Seven Tech Priorities for the next Government](#) (techUK)

- [Seven exponential policies for a new government](#) (Exponential View) - one of the pledges here, under the heading 'Prepare people' is to 'Launch a nationwide process to engage, deliberate and consult on key issues of technology change, from AI to energy transition. Such citizens' assemblies can help identify local fears, needs and priorities, while building broader public trust in the system'

- [Manifestos – General Election 2024](#) (politics.co.uk) - links to manifestos from charities and trade associations

- [techUK co-signs a letter urging the next government to modernise the UK's data protection framework](#) (techUK)

- [Open Letter to political parties: Recommit to moving forward with Digital Verification in the UK](#) (techUK)

- [Startup Manifesto 2024 - an Open Letter](#) (Startup Coalition)

Analysis of party manifestos, pledges and party-aligned policies

- [Clear Plan, Bold Action, Secure Future](#) (Conservatives, 11 June) - brief summary of data/AI-related pledges [here](#)

- [Change.](#) (Labour, 13 June) - brief summary of data/AI-related pledges [here](#)

- [For a Fair Deal](#) (Liberal Democrats, 10 June) - brief summary of data/AI-related pledges [here](#)

- [A Future Made in Scotland](#) (SNP, 19 June) - brief summary of data/AI-related pledges [here](#)

- [For Fairness, For Ambition, For Wales](#) (Plaid Cymru, 13 June) - brief summary of data/AI-related pledges [here](#)

- [Real Hope. Real Change.](#) (Green Party, 12 June) - brief summary of data/AI-related pledges [here](#)

- [Our Contract With You](#) (Reform, 17 June) - brief summary of data/AI-related pledges [here](#)

- [Britain Deserves Better](#) (Workers Party, 19 June) - brief summary of data/AI-related pledges [here](#)

- [Leading Change for Everyone](#) (Alliance, 20 June) - brief summary of data/AI-related pledges [here](#)

- [Fabian Manifesto](#) (the Fabian Society) - this manifesto from one of the leading left-wing thinktanks includes pledges on free refurbished digital devices and training for the digitally excluded, and automatic social tariffs through data matching

Hustings and events

- 19 June: [Science, innovation and technology hustings](#) (Campaign for Science and Engineering, the Foundation for Science and Technology, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society). [Tweets](#), [write-up](#)
- 25 June: [Who should Labour listen to on AI, tech and public services?](#) (Data and AI Civil Society Network - Connected by Data). [Video](#), [write-up](#), [clips](#)
- 25 June: [Digital Rights in the age of AI - Hustings](#) (Data and AI Civil Society Network - Open Rights Group, Big Brother Watch, Connected by Data, Defend Digital Me, Open Data Institute, Worker Info Exchange, Institute for the Future of Work). [Video](#)

Relevant polling on data, AI, tech

- [Survey finds strong public support for FOI - alongside support for a stronger FOI law](#) (Scottish Information Commissioner) - May 2024
- [Public attitudes to data and AI: Tracker survey (Wave 3)](#) (DSIT) - December 2023
- [AI-pocalypse? No. Why we need to focus on how tech is transforming Britain today](#) (Labour Together) - November 2023

Hub-hub

- [General Election Hub](#) (Local Government Association)
- [General Election Hub](#) (techUK)
- [General Election Hub](#) (CBI)

Other useful links

- [Data Policy Digest](#) (Connected by Data) – our regular newsletter with all the latest data and AI developments will be more frequent (and much shorter!) during the election campaign

- [General Election Policy Tracker](#) (Public First) – does exactly what it says on the tin, with links to policies announced by different parties

- [Labour's election policy positions, tracked](#) and [The Tories' election policy positions, tracked](#) (Politico)