techUK

FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Policy and Public Affairs

techUK's policy and public affairs function makes the case to government and policymakers across Westminster, Whitehall, Brussels and the devolved nations on the most pressing issues facing businesses and the tech sector.

Visit the Policy and Public Affairs hub on our website.

2021 Achievements

Expanding our influence with key Government stakeholders

techUK has maintained and built upon our relationships with key stakeholders in Government, Parliament and Whitehall. In 2021 we held a series of engagements with senior civil servants, members of the Cabinet and the Shadow Cabinet. You can see here an in conversation event between techUK President Jacqueline de Rojas and Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak.

Continuing our strong working Partnership with Government

techUK has joined a number of key Government Steering Groups to shape policy at the highest levels of Government. These include among others co-charing the National Data Strategy Forum, becoming members of the Business Innovation Forum and securing a place on the Strategic Trade Advisory Group.

Launch of Help to Grow: Digital

We successfully lobbied for the creation of this productivity boosting fund, techUK is now a member of the advisory board and continues to shape the policy.

R&D tax credits expansion to cover data and cloud

We successfully lobbied the treasury to expand the tax credit, techUK is providing some final feedback on the policy, but this is due to be implemented in 2023.

First Digital Economy Monitor launched

The Digital Economy Monitor is a tool that allows member voices, concerns and ambitions to be raised to Ministers and beyond. In the first wave of the Digital Economy Monitor we collected 50+ member responses, the results of which were featured in the media.

2022 Objectives

Continuing to support the Help to Grow: Digital scheme

techUK will remain active on the advisory group and will be making the case for the expansion of the scheme to ensure members can make full use of this offer by government.

techUK growth report

We will publish a report on the state of the UK tech sector after Brexit and the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns. We will explore possible policy initiatives government could enact to accelerate growth of the sector with benefits for the UK economy.

Development of techUK's innovation policy offering

We will develop coherent innovation policy requirements to ensure that the UK innovation ecosystem remains globally competitive. This also means supporting the delivery of the Innovation Strategy and other strategies related to the Innovation Policy.

Growing the Digital Economy Monitor

We will deliver at least two new waves of the DEM during 2022 which should increase both the number of members that respond to the survey, and the impact generated by the results of the survey (more views, more engagement with social media, and more appearances in the news).

Deliver techUK's asks for the Budget 2022

There are several policy asks across techUK programmes that require both funding and active policymaking - these asks are channeled through our submission to the budget. It has been found that making a successful budget submission has an impact on government policymaking (e.g. R&D tax credits reforms and Help to Grow).

Data Policy

2021 Achievements

Sue Daley, Director of Tech and Innovation, techUK chosen to co-chair the National Data Strategy Forum

The forum was created by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to ensure that a diverse range of perspectives continue to inform the implementation of the National Data Strategy. Since the forum's launch, techUK has helped Government to facilitate roundtables, events and webinars on UK data policy including a fireside chat with former Minister, John Whittingdale.

Helped to secure a new agreement for EU-UK data flows

Following a long period of uncertainty for businesses and organisations, techUK worked with members and key stakeholders in the European Commission and UK Government to help secure a positive adequacy agreement for EU-UK data flows, which underpins digital trade and helps to maintain a friendly relationship between the UK and the European Union.

Published a discussion paper on the Future of Data Governance for the UK

This discussion paper helped to drive the debate on future UK data policy and set out key areas for action to help the UK position itself at the forefront of achieving a living governance system underpinned by solid principles and objectives.

Data Policy

2021 Achievements (continued)

Hosted a G7 Digital and Technology Roundtable on Data Localisation

To mark the UK's Presidency of the G7 and the publication of the G7 Roadmap for Cooperation on Data Free Flow with Trust, techUK partnered with DCMS to host two panels which brought together experts, academics and Government to discuss the impact of data localisation on micro SMEs and alternative policy responses to data localisation.

Advised Government on the future of Smart Data Initiatives

techUK and members worked closely with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on its Smart Data Workstream and developed recommendations for Government to consider as BEIS seeks to expand on its Smart Data initiatives. This included responding to the Smart Data Working Group: Spring Report 2021.

Responded to UK Government's consultation on reform to the data protection regime

techUK responded to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's significant consultation Data: a new direction which seeks to reform the current data protection regime. Since our submission, we have developed a content hub on our website which hosts blogs, resources, and webinars to keep members up to date with the latest developments.

Data Policy

2022 Objectives

Continuing to work closely with the National Data Strategy Forum

techUK will maintain its strong and collaborative working relationship with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's National Data Strategy Forum through regular engagement and by supporting efforts to deliver the Workplan for 2022.

Publishing a statement on Principles for the Future of UK Data Policy

To help shape the Government's thinking on future data protection reform and data policy more widely, techUK will work with members to develop a set of guiding principles which will aim to support Government in the implementation of the National Data Strategy and the revised data protection regime.

Strengthening techUK's Smart and Open Data Community

techUK will rebuild its Open Data Working Group by electing a new Chair, developing its policy thinking and producing a Whitepaper on the future of data sharing. This paper will set out recommendations and drive policy debates for Government to consider as it implements Mission 1 and 3 of the National Data Strategy and Smart Data initiatives.

Data Policy

2022 Objectives (continued)

Developing a strong working relationship with the regulator and new Information Commissioner

Working closely with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), techUK will host a listening exercise with the newly appointed Commissioner, John Edwards and help to facilitate regular dialogue between members and the regulator. This includes providing feedback on draft regulatory guidance and consultations which will be vital as the UK Government sets out its planned reform to the UK data protection regime.

Successfully lobbying Government to deliver a pro-growth data protection regime

Following the Government's publication of its response to the Data: a new direction consultation, techUK will work closely with key stakeholders to ensure reforms to the UK's data protection regime facilitate a pro-innovation regulatory environment, without threatening data protection rights or the European Union's positive adequacy decision with the UK.

Public Affairs

2021 Achievements

Engagement with senior stakeholders

Following a cabinet reshuffle in Q3 and a shadow cabinet reshuffle in Q4, we have successfully engaged and built relationships with senior figures across Government. This includes hosting Minister Chris Philp on a panel at Conservative Party Conference and engaging other ministers including innovation minister George Freeman, and welcoming the Secretary of State Nadine Dorries to our Annual Dinner.

Driving engagement in Westminster

techUK represented the sector's views across Westminster through events and panels at the Conservative Party Conference and Labour Party Conference, and engaging MPs and peers on key files.

Launch of Technology and the Future of the UK High Street report

In 2021, we released this report looking at the adoption of technology by high street and SME businesses in order to address the perception that tech and the high street are at odds. A launch event in parliament was delayed until 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Public Affairs

2022 Objectives

Continue to drive our strategic engagement with Ministers

Through 2022 we will build relationships and opportunities for members to communicate with government ministers across key departments, including DCMS, BEIS, Treasury, Levelling up and beyond.

Engage across Westminster on key files

2022 will be a busy year for legislation in tech, and techUK will continue to engage on key items of legislation.

Raise the understanding of emerging tech in Westminster

It is important that policymakers and legislators have a solid understanding of the technologies that they are developing policy and law for. techUK will engage in a range of activities aimed at raising the understanding of important and emerging technologies such as AI, algorithms and quantum computing.

Building a better understanding of tech's role in the UK economy

techUK will work to raise the profile of the opportunities that a strong UK technology sector provides for the UK economy. This will include engagement across skills and job opportunities, the government's Levelling Up agenda, and the other ways in which tech is supporting the UK economy.

Digital Regulation

2021 Achievements

Successfully lobbying for competition in digital markets

In 2021 we responded to the new pro-competition regime for digital markets consultation, hosting an event with the main regulator (DMU) and John Penrose MP. We also responded to the call for evidence on post-pandemic economic growth, State Aid and Post-Brexit Competition Policy (on which we were later invited to give oral evidence), and tightened our engagement with regulators and industry on this issue. We also collaborated with European TAs on the DMA.

Building partnerships to convey sector positions on the Online Safety Bill

techUK coordinated members and agreed our messaging. We submitted written evidence to the PLS Committee which was acknowledged several times in the final report and formed relationships with PLS Committee members. We coordinated roundtables with DCMS directors and members to convey sector key messages, and secured one-to-one engagements with the Secretary of State and Digital Minister to discuss the Bill.

Setting up the Online Fraud Steering Group (OFSG)

techUK formed a partnership with UK Finance and law enforcement agencies, coordinating OFSG tech members to collectively agree to only allow advertisers to advertise financial services products if they are authorised by the FCA. We encouraged members to fund Take Five through ad-credits, balancing tensions of collaboration between public and private sectors.

Building techUK's reputation as a credible body to discuss economic crime policy

techUK presented to the Lords Digital Committee, and had senior representation at key Government Taskforce's (Economic Crime Strategic Board and Joint Fraud Taskforce).

Digital Regulation

2022 Objectives

Support the government in delivering the new pro-competition regime for digital markets

techUK welcomed the publication of the pro-competition regime proposals as a targeted approach to updating competition policy in the UK post Brexit.

The consultation follows in-depth studies of digital markets including the CMA market study into online platforms and digital advertising and the Furman Review, where the Government committed to establishing a dedicated Digital Markets Unit (DMU) responsible for designating firms with 'strategic market status' (SMS), overseeing a mandatory code of conduct for those firms and implementing pro-competitive interventions.

We will continue to work on shaping the design and implementation of the new regime, responding to new consultations, organising events, and engaging with senior government officials.

Launch a new digital regulation campaign

techUK will launch a new campaign aiming to influence how the UK seeks to establish its architecture for regulating the digital economy and digital society. Covering issues like online safety, competition, and data the campaign will shape the narrative of how the UK's policy community, regulators and politicians approach the issue of digital regulation, giving our members a stronger voice.